

Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

JANUARY 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 1



Hyacinth Macaw
Photo by Bill Eden

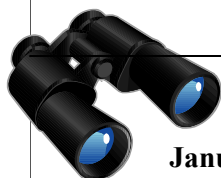
Brazil Birds – January 23

Bill Eden and Bill Turner will transport you to the Brazil's Christalino River and its rainforest habitat, then to the largest freshwater wetlands in the world – the Pantanal. Brazil is the fourth largest country in landmass and one of the most biodiverse.

Bill Eden's photographs will feature a sample of the 1,800 species of birds found in Brazil such as the endangered Hyacinth Macaw, the Jabiru, Sunbittern and Green Ibis as well as a few mammals including the Brazilian Tapir, Giant River Otter and Crab-eating Fox.

This 2010 Brazil trip was developed by Bill Turner's company *Tours By Turner*. Bill Turner also leads trips to Belize, Australia, Costa Rica and other locations.

Continued on page 3



January 2012 Field Trips

January 7

No trip scheduled.

Sunday January 8

Red Rocks Park

Leader: Tom Bush, 303-904-4576 . Time: Meet at 9am at the Red Rocks Trading Post for a half day of foothills birding. We'll spend some time checking out all the activity at the feeders - possible rosy finches, golden crowned sparrow (?), jays, chickadees. We'll do some walking looking for the prairie falcon and other raptors. Bring water, snack and lunch. To reach Red Rocks Trading Post go west out of Morrison on Hwy 74. Only about ¼ mile out of Morrison you'll turn right on Red Rocks Park Road. Stay right at the first fork. Continue on Red Rocks Road approximately a mile to the Trading Post .

Saturday January 14

Annual Rosy Finch trip to Fawn Brook Inn

Leaders: Niña Routh and Mike Serruto Meet the leaders at the Wagon Road Park N Ride at I-25 and 120th Ave at 8:30am. This will be a ¾ day trip returning at 3-ish. We will check out the feeders at the Fawn Brook Inn in Allenspark for the various rosy finches and other winter birds. After the morning in the mountains we'll go back to Lyons for lunch at Oscar Blue's (and associated birding near Oscar's). Then we will bird around the Lyons area into the afternoon. People and autos should be prepared to be out in mountain winter weather (i.e. be prepared for anything). If questions call leader (Nina) at 303.987.8687. Directions to Wagon Road Park N Ride: Exit I-25 on 120th and go west about 2 blocks. Turn South at Wendy's (Melody Drive). Park N Ride is right there in the 1st block S of 120th.

Sunday January 15

Silverthorne Area

Leader: Norm Erthal. Meet leader at 8:30am in the parking lot on the NW quadrant of I-70 and US 40 intersection. Going west on I-70 use exit 259. Parking lot on NW corner of this intersection. This is approximately a ¾

Continued on next page

January Field Trips, continued

day trip returning at 2-3pm. Another chance for rosy finches and any winter mountain birds. Bring warm clothes, radios if you have them. If questions or questionable weather call or e-mail leader: nerthal@comcast.net 303.917.2596

Saturday January 21 Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Urling Kingery Meet the leader at 8:30am at the new visitor center at the Arsenal. Take I-70 to Quebec Street. Follow north on Quebec Street approx 2.8 miles to Prairie Parkway (64th turns into Prairie Parkway). Turn right at Prairie Parkway and travel .6 miles to Gateway Road. Turn left at Gateway Road; continue on Gateway Road until you pass through the Refuge Entrance and the Visitor Center will be on the crest of the hill. We'll be hoping for wonderful winter raptors and we'll have a chance to view the new visitor center. This trip has limits on the number of participants, so please register early to assure yourself a spot. Please call Urling to register 303.814.2723.

Sunday January 22 Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Karen vonSaltza Meet leader at 8:30am at the west marina for a half day trip. Marina is inside the park's west entrance. Entrance is across from Cherry Creek HS. From Bellevue and Yosemite go east on Bellevue until you reach the park entrance. Birding until about noon. We'll start on the west side scoping the birds on the reservoir, look for raptors within the park, and move around to the east side for another view of the reservoir and birding in the treed area. There is always the possibility for some exciting rarities here. Bring warm clothes, scopes if you have them, water, a snack. If questions or questionable weather, please call the leader the night before 303.368.9961

Saturday January 28 Belmar Park

Leader: Karleen Schofield. This is a half day trip. Kountze Lake in Belmar Park often has open water in January. We'll check out the waterfowl on the lake, search for raptors over the fields and see what other birds may be found on a winter's day. Meet for a 9am start on the west side of the Irongate office building. Belmar Historic Park is at 800 S Wadsworth Blvd in Lakewood. From Alameda and Wadsworth go South on Wadsworth, turn west at light on West Ohio Avenue. Drive a short two blocks to the parking lot. Bring water, layered clothing, sun block, scopes. If questions or questionable weather, please call the leader the night before 303.936.8661.

Tuesday, January 31 Birding Canon City Area

Leader: Charles Thornton-Kolbe. Meet ten minutes before 6am at the Park 'n Ride off of I-25 at Yale Ave. (from I-25 from the north and heading south take the Yale Exit and turn right at Yale, then an immediate right turn into the parking lot). We will form carpools at the Park 'n Ride in the parking lot area farthest from Yale Avenue.

Please get there by 5:50am.

We will stop on the way to Canon City for a good spot for Lewis' Woodpecker and then continue on to Canon City. Our first stop is usually Tunnel Drive (perhaps Rufous-crowned Sparrow, but likely a few goodies here), then to River Walk for the rest of the morning (we usually find a rarity here, but usually other nice birds). After lunch, we head to some Pinyon-Juniper habitat where we usually find Juniper Titmouse, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, 1 or 2 species of Thrasher, and 2 or 3 species of Bluebird. We finish off for a good spot for Canon Towhee, Bewick's Wren and Scaled-Quail.

This is always a very fun and productive winter birding day, and this is always one of my favorite DFO birding trips. In years past, we have found some very cool birds including Golden-crowned Sparrow (rare), Harris' Sparrow (seldom), Pine Warbler (once), White-throated Sparrow (once). This trip has never missed a rarity (which is never guaranteed), but we always have a productive and fun day. Bring: Layers of clothing and coats (including rain gear), binoculars, scope (if you have one), lunch, snack, beverages. Bring breakfast if you have not eaten before leaving. Also two way radio and cell phones can be helpful to support car-to-car communication. Bring about \$15.00 to 25.00 for your gas share. If bad weather, come to parking lot, and we will go for it or find an alternative plans. No need to RSVP!

Meeting Presentations, continued

Bill Eden enjoys photographing birds in the United States and internationally. His pursuit of birding and photographing birds, linked with a passion to travel, has taken him to counties in Central and South America, Africa and "Down Under". Bill is a past DFO Board member and currently helps coordinate the Audubon Society of Greater Denver's (ASGD) Master Birder Program.

Bill Turner has worked as the Curator of Reptiles at the LA Zoo and then as Director of Education at the Denver Zoo. Bill's favorite destination is Australia where he has led two dozen trips. Bill Turner is a DFO and ASGD member and enjoys birding with the Tuesday Birders.

*The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the Museum and walk around and enter through the Museum's west doors. Plan to arrive by 7:15pm; **DOORS OPEN BY 7:00pm AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30pm.** If late, you can enter through the security/volunteer entrance on the north side of the building, but this does create problems for our hosts.*

eBirding with Ted Floyd, Monday February 27

Ted Floyd is the Editor of *Birding*, the flagship publication of the American Birding Association. He has published widely on birds and ecological topics. Ted has written more than 125 articles, with contributions to scholarly journals such as *Ecology*, *Oecologia*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, and *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* and contributions to popular magazines such as *Natural History*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, and *Birding*.

Ted has contributed chapters to textbooks and guidebooks published by Oxford University Press, Houghton Mifflin, and National Geographic. He is senior author of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada* (University of Nevada Press, 2007) and author of the *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (HarperCollins, 2008).

More details in the February issue of the Lark Bunting

Welcome New Members!

Vicki Camp, 2459A S Worchester Ct, Aurora, CO 80014, 303.368.8774
 Glenn Gade, 120 Dexter St, Denver, CO 80220, 303.329.0471
 Art Hudak, 3070 S Hobart Way, Denver, CO 80227-3823, 720.581.1644

Thank you for your donation to the DFO Endowment Fund: Doug & Jan Hodous, Bill & Suzanne Wuerthele, Tim & Candice Johnson, Hugh & Urling Kingery, Chuck Hundertmark, Judy Lane, Robert Beck, Robert Righter, Sue Clasen, Kitsi Atkinson & Tom Pool, Rick Creswell, Karen & Chuck Kaiser, Kathanne Lynch, Lynn & Liz Willcockson, Doris Cruze, Joann Pettinicchio, Frances, Campbell, Lee & Linda Farrell, Ron Carter, Dan & Renee Brachear, Betsy Shaw, Mic Prochazka, Rex McGehee, Elissa & Jon McAlear, Rena Fowler, Kathanne Lynch, Kevin Corwin

Additional Thanks for 2012 Research and Education Grants: Bill & Suzanne Wuerthele, Jacqueline Heyda, Chuck Hundertmark, Kitsi Atkinson & Tom Pool, Jeffery Stroup, Jean VanLoan, Elissa & Jon McAlear, Chuck & Jennifer Thornton-Kolbe

New Guide to Central New Mexico Birding

Colorado birders heading for Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will find *Birding Hot Spots of Central New Mexico* a handy guide to stopping points along the way as well as the refuge itself. Authors Judy Liddell and Barbara Hussey cover birding areas from just north of Albuquerque south to Bosque del Apache, one of the best known refuges in the country.

At 203 pages including the index, *Birding Hot Spots* is able to offer more detail than the 2002 third edition of the *New Mexico Bird Finding Guide*. (The fourth edition of this New Mexico Ornithological Society publication is currently in the works.) Published by Texas A&M University Press, the Liddell and Hussey guide is well organized making it easy to plan birding forays from Albuquerque or en route to the refuge along I-25.

The opening chapter introduces the area's geography, life zones and habitats. Habitats covered range from Chihuahuan desert scrubland to the rocky, spruce-fir capped crest of the Sandia Mountains. An annotated checklist at back of the book lists 241 species that can be found regularly in this diverse area. The "Helpful Information" of the book's second chapter includes tips on weather, altitude, safety, pests, and public transportation. Chapters 3-8 are organized by subregions with the final chapter devoted to the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics.

Using the junction of I-25 and I-40 as a starting point, the authors describe birding hot spots along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque and Corrales, the Sandia Foothills, the east side of the Sandi Mountains up to the crest, the Manzanita and Manzano Mountains, Petroglyph National Monument, and Rio Grande birding spots south of Albuquerque.

Each hot spot is described, including habitat descriptions, access points, and trails. Maps are included for nine of the sites. Each site description also notes whether the location is an eBird hotspot. Target species for each location are listed with annotations about where and when each species is likely to be found. Birders seeking to add southwestern species to their year or life lists will find this feature particularly useful, heading to the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area for Juniper Titmouse or the Bosque del Apache Visitor Center for Verdins. Other birds likely to be seen are also listed with less detail.

Birders new to the destinations covered will find about information to help plan trips for comfort and safety. For each hot spot, the authors give detailed directions and information on parking, facilities on site, special considerations and hazards, and the nearest food and gas. (If I had had that last information when I first moved to New Mexico, I would have spent less time hitchhiking to gas stations.)

The Annotated Checklist at the end of the work will also be useful for birders targeting particular species. Want to catch Ross's Goose while you're visiting Bosque del Apache? Don't arrive before November, and if you go too late in February, your chances will be slimmer.

The book's organization inevitably leads to some redundancy. Harvester ants are probably more numerous in New Mexico than anywhere outside of Colorado's Walden Reservoir, so they get frequent mention as do rattlesnakes. While herp lovers would want to see rattlesnakes listed as target species, the authors appropriately list them with special considerations and hazards.

Overall, this guide is well done. Although I spent 30 years birding the area covered by this guide, I plan to take it on my next trip to Bosque.

Review by Chuck Hundertmark

Before moving to Colorado in 1997, Chuck Hundertmark spent 30 years in New Mexico where he served as President of the New Mexico Ornithological Society and Central New Mexico Audubon Society. He was the founder of Rio Grande Bird Research Inc., a nonprofit organization conducting banding programs in the area covered by the guide.

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The DFO Field Trip summaries will appear in the next issue.

January 1, 2012 -- Denver Urban Christmas Count—

A holiday tradition – everyone welcome: beginners, intermediate, and advanced. The more eyes we have, the more birds we see. And we like to encourage people to get involved. Start the New Year with a half day or whole day effort – a good way to start your New Year's List!

The count covers a circle with a 15-mile diameter that includes the Platte River from North City limits to Mississippi, west to Buckley Field and Rocky Mtn. Arsenal. \$5.00 fee, payable to National Audubon Society, to defray costs of the count.

Pot Luck, 5:00 pm after the count, at Casey Davenport's, 415 South High (5 blocks west of University, about 2 blocks south of Alameda); please call Urling (303-814-2723) so we can count you in on the chili pot, Urling's brownies, Casey's hospitality, and your salad, dessert, veggie, or finger foods.

Count Leader, Hugh Kingery 303-814-2723

<i>Area Location</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	
South Platte (south) To Confluence Park	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072	Some walking
South Platte (central) Confluence Park to Riverside Cemetery	Casey Davenport	303-744-0613	Some walking
South Platte (north)	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035	Walking
Lower Sand Creek/ Commerce City/Montbello	Mike Serruto	303-377-9870	Some walking
Aurora, Tollgate Ck Upper Sand Creek/Bluff Lake	Randy Lentz	303-680-3381	Walking
Cherry Creek Res.	Bob Brown	303-791-6204 PicaPica@att.net	Some walking
Kent School, S/Hampden	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000	Some walking
SE Denver, N/Hampden	Mary Keithler	303 935 5808 mkeithler@gmail.com 303-798-9924	Walking Harriet Stratton. hstra10@comcast.net
Cherry Creek, dam to University Blvd.	Paul Slingsby	303-422-3728 paslingsby@comcast.net	7-mile walk
City Park/Park Hill	Kevin Corwin	720-482-8454	Car, some walking
Botanic Gardens/ Wash. Park	Marilyn Rhodes	303-674-6580	Car, some walking
Denver Country Club,	Bob Santangelo	303-771-1367	
Rocky Mtn. Arsenal	Urling Kingery	303-814-2723	Some Walking Trip Full. Closed.
<i>Fairmont, Lowry Field Denver Zoo</i>	<i>303-979-6211 Brad Parks</i>	<i>Tuesday Birders Closed Closed</i>	

The "New" DFO Endowment Fund – We Need Your HELP!

In 1994 Mary Hope Robinson donated \$15,000 to DFO. This donation was the beginning of the fund that became known as the DFO Educational Endowment Fund. Over the years many projects have been funded from student scholarships to teacher training to avian research.

In recent months the name of the fund has been changed to the DFO Endowment Fund and the mission statement and guidelines for funding grants have been updated. The goals of these changes are to improve the timeliness and efficiency of the grant process and to attract more high quality project applications than we have seen in recent years.

Mary Hope Robinson's generous gift was invested and has grown to \$28,000. The interest generated from the principal and gifts from members provide the actual monies used to fund grants each year. For 2012 the DFO Board has added additional money to bring the fund up to about \$4,000 which is available for grants beginning this month. This is very exciting! Another wonderful development is that last year long-time member and Ptarmigan Award winner Bob Righter very generously donated \$1,500 to DFO. The Board has decided to use this money to match member gifts to the grants fund (for 2013) with the goal of raising a total of \$5,000 for grants. So DFO has approximately \$4,000 for Endowment fund grants in 2012, and a goal of raising \$5,000 for grants for 2013.

We Need Your HELP!

In 2012 DFO will need the help of the membership to:

1. Spread the word that we are looking for applicants with projects related to birds and their habitats (see DFO website).
2. Make donations to the DFO Endowment Fund in 2012. These donations will be matched up to \$1,500 from the Bob Righter gift.
3. And/or make a donation (not matched) to grow the \$28,000 fund principal which will generate interest for future grants.

For additional information, visit the DFO website at <http://www.dfobirders.org/> and check out the Grants Fund pages. We are all hoping to see some outstanding grant projects in 2012!

Species	Date	Number	Location	County	Observers & comments
American Bittern	Nov 30	1	Belmar	Jefferson	Cynthia Madsen, Sharon Pfeiffer, Megan Miller
N. Goshawk	Nov 21	1	Franktown	Douglas	Karen Metz
Sandhill Crane	Nov 15	275	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Sandhill Crane	Nov 7	x	Denver	Denver	Mel Melnicoe
Gull sp.	Nov 20	850	Castlewood Canyon	Douglas	Denver Audubon; flying south
Bushtit	Nov 19	17	Denver	Denver	Bill Eden
Eastern Bluebird	Nov 9	3	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Robins & Solitaires	November	See notes	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Solitaires arrived in Nov. 1; our high count, 7 on Nov. 11. Flocks of Robins arrived also; highs of 60-90 Nov. 6-30. They seem to compete with the solitaires for the Juniper 'berries' although we still have, perhaps, 3-5 solitaires remaining.					
Brown thrasher	Nov. 9-Dec 1	1	Franktown	Douglas	Karen Metz
Brown thrasher	Nov 15	1	NW Elbert County	Elbert	Debbie Trujillo
White-throated Sparrow	Nov 2	1	Denver	Denver	Bill Wuerthele
White-throated Sparrow	Nov. 2-21	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Harris's Sparrow	Nov 20	1	Denver	Denver	Bob Santangelo
Harris's Sparrow	Nov 8-13	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Lesser Goldfinch	Nov 4	1	Roxborough Village	Douglas	Jill Holden
Lesser Goldfinch	Nov 2	2	Highlands Ranch	Douglas	Linda Williams

So Sayeth the Speaker...

DFO members were treated to another spell-binding presentation entitled “The Birds of Columbia” by well-known DFO world birder, John Drummond, on 28 November 2011. John, holding dual citizenships in England and the US, began birding as a teen in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. His Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry allowed him to travel to many countries as a petroleum researcher and quality control expert, and as a birder. His world list is nearly 6,800 species.

John said safety issues in Columbia were much improved during his most recent trip for Partners for International Birding in April 2010 (<http://www.pibird.com/index.html>). The nongovernmental organization, ProAves, has been instrumental in establishing 20 bird reserves in Columbia (<http://www.proaves.org/>) and increasing interest in ecotourism. The newest guide book, *The Field Guide to the Birds of Colombia* by Miles McMullan, was published by Fundacion ProAves in 2010 and is similar to our current guide books. The cover photos are of the Fuertes's Parrot thought to be extinct but rediscovered in 2002. The Guide to the Birds of Colombia by Steven L. Hilty, Steven L. Hilty (Author) [Visit Amazon's Steven L. Hilty Page](#). Find all the books, read about the author, and more. See [search results](#) for this author. Are you an author? [Learn about Author Central](#). William L. Brown, and Guy Tudor was published in 1986 and contains many small drawings/page similar to Stiles, Skutch, and Gardner's A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica.

Colombia is dominated by the Andes Mountains that are divided into three cordilleras: the Cordillera Occidental, running adjacent to the Pacific coast and including the city of Cali; the Cordillera Central, running between two river valleys; and the Cordillera Oriental, which includes Bogotá. East of the Andes lies the savanna of the Llanos, and in the far south east, the jungle of the Amazon rainforest. According to John and ProAves, these lowlands comprise over half Colombia's territory, but they contain less than 3% of the population. Along the Caribbean coast, is a major port city Cartagena, a World Heritage Site, and nearby is the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountain range, with peaks to 19,000 ft. John and his group traveled in 2010 from Cali north, over to Bogotá, and then flew north to the Santa Marta mountains.

Columbia is very rainy, most locations receiving 80 to 160 inches per year and up to 360 inches a year on the west slope of the Cordillera Occidental. So be prepared for landslides. He showed photos of a local bus, empty of passengers, which was trying to negotiate a one-lane mountain curve that had been inundated with a mudslide. You must use excellent 4-wheel drive vehicles to bird in Columbia. Columbia currently lists 1,889 bird species with 76 endemics. Four new species have been discovered in the last four years. Major numbers of endemics can be found in the two western mountain valleys.

John showed many beautiful photos of Central and South American bird species, some endemic to Columbia. He began with the Andean Motmot, which he said had been split from the Blue-crowned Motmot I am familiar with from Costa Rica. And then he showed one of my favorites, a painting of which I have hanging in my home—the White-necked Jacobin, probably named for its white cowl on the back of the neck! We saw it in Costa Rica also. He had photos of some very rare endemics including the Brown-banded Antpitta found in one place only, and the Tawny Antpitta. John provided fascinating photos of the Bearded Helmetcrest, a hummingbird, at >14,000 ft above treeline. It nests in and feeds from the flowers of Espeletia, a genus of perennial subshrubs, in the family Asteraceae. The genus is endemic mainly to Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador. There are about 88 species in this genus. The flowers are usually yellow, similar to daisies. The Bearded Helmetcrest disappears after nesting and scientists don't know where it goes. The *Espeletia* species are endangered due to destruction of the land for agricultural purposes, especially potato crops. This activity continues, despite the fact that it was declared illegal by the Colombian government. John and his group visited several private homes with many hummingbird feeders hosting lots of hummers, so they were treated to long looks at many species.

John and his group flew north to Santa Marta at sea level on the Caribbean coast to travel into the cloud forest and mountains rising to 19,000 ft. They stayed at the Jeniam EcoLodge at 6,000 ft in the 1,600-acre ProAves El Dorado Reserve. They saw “our Georgetown, CO” Rufous-collared Sparrow! They traveled above tree line to enjoy the Sierra Nevada Brush-Finch (one of eight splits to the Stripe-headed Brush-Finch). There are many types of bracken and a few palms important for Santa Marta Whitestart, Santa Marta Bush-tyrant, and the endemic endangered Santa Marta Parakeet. Scientists are attempting to protect the parakeet by putting up nest boxes and drilling nest holes in some of the palm trees because it nests only in palm tree cavities and the trees are slowly dying. They also saw the Blossomcrown hummingbird, which is extremely rare.

John interspersed beautiful photos with an occasional quiz question for the audience, which is always dynamic. Amazingly, DFO members often correctly answered the questions! I am sure they all would like to take this trip!

Kay Niyo

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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Feb 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Mar 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Apr 12 **Scheduler needed**
May 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303-863-7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303-280-8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Dec 12 **Scheduler needed**

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt@Q.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt, veronicaholt@Q.com

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rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#).

Denver Field Ornithologists 2012 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

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- Contribution to 2013 research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- Contribution to the DFO Endowment Fund principal \$ _____

If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (legible) Lark Bunting Email address:

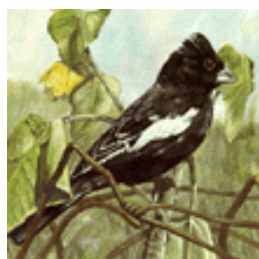
Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Upcoming Presentations:
Brazil Birds with Bill Turner and Bill Eden
January 23

eBirding and Ted Floyd
February 27



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

FEBRUARY 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 2

Ted Floyd Returns on February 27...

Back by popular demand! Maybe you remember the March 2010 DFO meeting, in which Ted Floyd provided a very brief overview of eBird? Many of you said you enjoyed the presentation--but you wished there could have been more!

We heard your pleas. Ted will be coming back to talk in considerably more detail about eBird. The regular DFO monthly meeting for February will be held on the 27th at the usual place, Ricketson Auditorium in the museum.

In this interactive presentation, Ted will take us on a "live" tutorial of eBird. He'll start from the very beginning--how to get to the website, how to get signed in, and how to start data entry. He'll also show us some of the amazing new features that have been added to eBird in the past year or so.



Continued on page 3



February Field Trips

Saturday, February 4

Northeastern Raptor Tour

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748

Meet leaders at 0630 at the Division of Wildlife, 6060 North Broadway – Exit I-25 at 58th Ave., go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Bring lunch, water and snacks for a full day of driving and watching raptors in the northeastern corner of Colorado.

Saturday, February 4

South Platte River-104th to McKay

Leader Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728

Bird the South Platte River from the 104th Avenue trailhead south to McKay street with a possible extension toward 88th avenue trailhead depending on weather and our endurance. Expect to walk 3 or more miles. This is a recently built greenbelt trail to try with good views of the river and some small cottonwood forests. Please call leader to register. We will meet at 8 am at the Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 N Broadway (I-25 exit 215, take 58th Av. west to Broadway, turn right, go north 1 block). Expect to finish by 1 pm. Spotting scope will be useful but you can share the leader's scope. There will be some off trail walking which may be in snow.

Sunday, February 5

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Mary Cay Burger, 303-771-3431

Meet leader at 0800 at the east entrance of park. Bring water and wear warm hiking shoes or boots for a half-day trip. Dress warmly! State Parks Pass required.

Saturday, February 11

South Platte Greenway Trailhead

Leaders: Barbara Shissler 303-904-7269 and Cindy Valentine 303-790-2805

Meet leaders at 0900 at E. 88th and the Platte River. From I-76 take E. 88th Ave. exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles

Continued on next page

February Field Trips, continued

then turn south at Colorado Blvd. Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trail-head. This trip may go past noon so bring lunch and wear comfortable walking shoes. Plan to see lots of waterfowl and raptors.

Sunday, February 12

Longmont Area

Leaders: Chris Owens 303-772-6048

Meet leader at 0800 at Jim Hamm Park. From I-25 take Exit 240. To reach the park, go west four miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld County Line Road, then north two miles to Jim Hamm Park at 17th Ave. This will be a three-quarter day trip ending about 2 pm so bring lunch and extra water.

Saturday, February 18

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Ed Holub, 303-979-2194

Meet leader at 0800 in the Swim Beach Parking lot inside west entrance of park off S. Wadsworth, 1½ miles south of C-470. This will be a half day trip so lunch is optional.

Sunday, February 19

Roxborough State Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072

Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor's Center for a three and a half-hour walking tour on an easy trail. Participants should see golden eagles and species common in the foothills. State Parks Pass required or \$5 entrance fee per car. Lunch will be optional but there is a beautiful place to sit on the patio and watch the birds as you eat lunch. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). This is an excellent trip for novice birders and new members.

Saturday, February 25

South Platte Park

Leader: Richard Anderson, 303-757-4582

Meet leader at 0800 at the South Platte Park's Carson Nature Center, north of Mineral Ave., 1 block west of S. Santa Fe Drive. This trip will end by noon so lunch is optional but do bring drinking water. Participants will bird South Platte Park, McClellan Reservoir and other places of interest in the surrounding area.

Sunday, February 26

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leader: Laurie Duke, 303-646-4699

Meet leader at 0800 at the north entrance to the park in the Homestead Parking Lot. This will be a half day trip, lunch optional but do bring snacks and drinking water. The trip will involve hiking over trails but leader will try to avoid icy areas so wear good hiking shoes.

Scheduled by Jackie King

Bird Festival in Fort Collins

Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:00 AM (UTC -07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada)

Description: Bird Festival at Bath Garden Center & Nursery, Prospect & Timberline in Fort Collins, Colo. Meet some incredible feathered friends up close and talk to local birding organizations, including RMBO, about what you can do to protect these wonderful creatures! www.bathgardencenter.com/ 970.484.5022

Meeting Presentations, continued

“LIFE Among the Headstones” — March 26

Presenter: David Leatherman, Naturalist, Retired Colorado State Forest Entomologist

Much more than just a “graveyard”, this 40 acre site at the west end of Mountain Avenue in Fort Collins is home to over 600 trees (two of them State Champions), around 20 species of birds on any given visit (190 total during the last 37 years), amazing insects and spiders, a wide variety of plants (native, weedy, ornamental, and plastic), mushrooms crayfish, deer, squirrels, foxes, golfers, photographers, and other entertaining animals.



Made famous over the years by its sapsuckers, winter finches, a Tropical Parula, and other surprises, this presentation chronicles natural events observed during 300+ visits over the last two years. Learn about shiny wasps with 2-inch long bodies, baby birds over 6 times the mass of their parents, the building materials of hornets, peonies decorated with meadowhawks, and how cute little squirrels can be anything but cute. Featured will be the unprecedented double-nesting at low elevation by Loxy and Larry, an en-

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Welcome New Members!

Jennifer Callender, 1215 Quince St, Denver CO 80220, 303.322.8099

Jane Price, 5613 Yarrow St, Arvada, CO 80002, 303.423.6477

Cindy Valentine, 8351 N Pinewood Dr, Castle Rock, CO 80108, 303.790.2805

Thank you for the contribution to the DFO Endowment Fund: Sharon Pfeifer, Cheryl Chessick, Christie Owens & Jim Petri, Wayne Wathen, Kiki Widjaja, Melissa Smith, Barney & Pat Poole, Karel Buckley, Marian McNamee & Keith Melichar, Mary Ann Tavary, Becca Hammons, Dan Brooke & Cheryl Teuton, Mary Zick, Tina Jones, Jane Price, Peggy Roberts, Michael Kiessig, and Jeanne Howell.

Thank you for your contribution to 2012 Research and education: Carol & Dan Cook and Tina Jones.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Chuck Hundertmark,
2546 Lake Meadow Dr. Lafayette, CO 80026
chundertmark8@gmail.com 303.604.0531

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Shade,
13861 W Dakota Ave, Lakewood, CO 80228
wrshade3@gmail.com 303.975.2476

TREASURER

Mary Geder,
13831 W Harvard Dr. Lakewood, CO 80228
mfg5000@live.com 303.986.6127

SECRETARY

Newell Grant,
1325 Cherryville Rd, Greenwood Village, CO
80121 nmgrantsr@aol.com 303.761.9967

DIRECTORS

Chris Blakeslee (2013) chrisabla@aol.com
John Drummond (2012) jxdrummo@aol.com
Tina Jones (2014) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Kay Niyo (2014) kay@kayniyo.com
Ira Sanders (2014) greatauk@msn.com
Connie Steinkamp (2012) ricconcal@comcast.net
Lynn Willcockson (2014) lynnliz2698@aol.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place,
Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Jan 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
Feb 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Mar 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Apr 12 **Scheduler needed**
May 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303-863-7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303-280-8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Dec 12 **Scheduler needed**

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt@Q.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750
Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor
Veronica Holt, veronicaholt@Q.com

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#).

Denver Field Ornithologists 2012 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

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Zip

Telephone

Electronic (legible) Lark Bunting Email address:

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Denver Field Ornithologists
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eBird: Details and Dynamics

Ted Floyd— February 27

Life Among the Headstones

Dave Leatherman—March 26





Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

MARCH 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 3



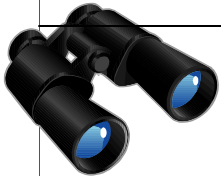
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Retired Colorado State Forest Entomologist

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Continued on page 3



March Field Trips

Saturday, March 3 Walden Ponds

Leader: Paula Hansley Hm. 720-890-2628 Cell 303-263-1714. Meet leader at 8:00 am at Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at Walden Ponds in Boulder County. Bird until about 11:00. Walden is accessed from a short road, which goes west from 75th Street 0.9 mi. north of Valmont Rd. The group will look at ducks/early migrants(?) on ponds and in woods in both Walden and Sawhill areas. We will also look for Dippers and other birds along Boulder Creek near 75th St. Bring a scope if you have one, along with snacks, water, and warm clothes.

Saturday, March 4th, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt.

Leader: Tom Parchman 303-274-7951. Meet Tom at 8:00am at Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge for a ½ day trip. Bring water and snacks; dress appropriately, in layers, for the weather. From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about ¾ of a mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go one mile west. Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south). Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to the lake. We'll check the lake for waterfowl before birding the paved and dirt paths along Clear Creek. The walking is easy but may involve up to three miles of walking.

Continued on next page

March Field Trips, continued

Saturday, March 10 Cherry Creek State Park

Leaders: Cheryl Teuton and Dan Brooke Meet the leaders at the west side marina at 8:00 am. From Bellevue and Yosemite go east on Bellevue until you reach the park entrance and follow the signs to the marina. State parks pass and \$3 fee required. (You may ask at the entrance gate about the \$3 pass on the way out if there is no one there upon arrival.) Bird until about noon. Bring water, snacks, scopes, binoculars, etc. 303.912.3341

Tuesday, March 13 Exploring the Poudre Natural Areas in Fort Collins

Co-Leaders: Nancy Wesorick and Chris Owens 970-532-2194 or 303-772-6048 or christiel@q.com

Meet leaders at 8:00 am at Jim Hamm Nature Area in Longmont. Bird until about 2:00 pm. We will walk along the Poudre River and see what we can find in the Natural Areas along the river. Bring water and lunch as well as birding essentials. If you have a need for more details call either Nancy or Chris or e-mail Chris after the 7th.

Saturday, March 17 Chatfield State Park

Leader: Joe Roller Meet leader at the Swim Beach parking lot inside west entrance of park off S. Wadsworth, 1 1/2 miles south of C-470 at 6:30 am.. Trip will be 2/3 day long. Bring two-way radios, lunch and other necessities. Who knows what you'll find but good things await. Questions? E-mail Joe at jroller9@gmail.com. ONLY use this phone number as a last resort: 303.204.828

Sunday, March 18 Longmont Area

Leader: Chris Owens Meet leader at 8:00 am at Jim Hamm Natural Area parking lot at County Line Road and 17th Avenue in east Longmont. Bird until 1 or 2 pm. From I-25 take Exit 240. To reach the park, go west four miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld County Line Road, then north two miles to Jim Hamm Park at 17th Ave. Joint trip with Boulder Bird Club. 303.772.6048 or christiel@q.com

Saturday, March 24 Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch

Leader: Tim Smart Meet leader at 8:00 am at the Hawk Watch. Trip runs until mid-day. Directions - From I-70 exit 259 (the Morrison exit), head south a short distance on CO 26 and turn left (east) into a Park-'n'-Ride parking lot (the "Stegosaurus" lot). Follow the steep and sometimes muddy trail through a gate and switchbacks up to the top of the ridge. At the top of the ridge turn left and go through the gate. smrr@juno.com

Saturday, March 31 Rollin' on the River

Leader: Jackie King Meet leader at 9:00 am in the parking lot at 3rd and Walnut on the Auraria Campus. Observers will walk along the South Platte River to look at ducks, gulls, and any other birds we can find. This will be a half day trip, ending by noon so lunch is optional. The leader uses a wheelchair so the trip will be on paved, level sidewalks perfect for those with limited mobility. Please call leader if you intend on going. 720.381.3314 or 303.287.1644

Saturday, March 31 Fountain Creek Regional Park and Big Johnson Reservoir:

Leader: Paul Slingsby, (303) 422-3728, mail to paslingsby@comcast.net. Please register with the leader beforehand, spring weather might cause a change. Meet the leader at 07:00 at the south-east corner of the Great Indoors parking lot. We will carpool from there. Great Indoors is just north of C470 on Yosemite. From Denver by I-25 use exit 195, and go West on County Line Road to Yosemite. Take Yosemite south to the Great Indoors, which will be on the right (west). Fountain Creek Regional Park has good trails for easy walking near ponds, wetlands, grassland and the creek. Spring migration might be underway, expect surprises. Bring lunch. Telescope and 2-way radio will be useful if you wish to bring them. Plan to be back at the carpool meeting place by 17:00 at the latest. If you want to meet us at Fountain Creek Regional Park, plan for 08:30 at the Peppergrass lane parking lot.

Scheduled by Chris Owens 303-772-6048

Meeting Presentations, continued



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Welcome New Members!

New members: Welcome and add to your roster.

Marianne Batchelder, 2645 S Miller Dr #204, Lakewood, CO 80227, 720.556.9090

Eric Fontenot, 7543 E 6th Pl, Denver, CO 80230

Liz Goehring, 1168 Adams St, Denver, CO 80206, 814.574.0770

Rita Klees, 3811 Silver Plume Circle, Boulder, CO 80305, 703.307.2621

Jean Langel, 9274 W Finland Dr, Littleton, CO 80127

Clair & Beverly Postmus, 8505 E Alameda Ave #3218, Denver, CO 80230, 720.324.8895

Ann Troth, 13625 E Evans Ave, Aurora, CO 80014, 303.588.7561

Former members: Welcome back!

Irene Godden, 180 Cook St #204, Denver, CO 80206 720.941.0292

Julia Grundmeier, 2004 E Terrace Dr, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 303.683.0210

Eileen Holcomb, 3535 W 39th Ave, Denver, CO 80211 303.433.4737

Gregory Smith, 2764 Dayton St, Denver, CO 80238 303.503.1857

- ◆ Thank you for the contribution to the DFO Endowment Fund: Marilyn Rhodes, Thomas Parchman, Wendy Sydow, Jeff Stephenson, Peter Mulholland, Diane & Jeff Carter, Bill & JoAnn Hackos, Diana Wilson
- ◆ Thank you for contribution to 2012 grants: Jeff Dawson, Audrey Gilden, Diane & Jeff Carter
- ◆ Thank you for contribution to 2013 grants: Von Fransen, Audrey Gilden, Chris Blakeslee, Mike Henwood, Karen & John Weslar
- ◆ Thank you for your contribution to 2012 Research and education: Jeff Dawson, Audrey Gilden, Diane & Jeff Carter

2012 DFO Grants Available

The DFO Endowment Fund

Please help us get the word out!

visit -- <http://www.dfobirders.org>

58th ANNUAL DENVER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Day, Date, and Time: Saturday, December 17, 2010, 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Compiler: Joey Kellner **Feeder Coordinators:** Rick & Connie Steinkamp

Weather: Clear à Mostly Clear **Temperature:** 10 to 55 deg. F **Wind:** variable, 0 to 15 mph

Snow Cover: 0 to 12" **Still Water:** Partly open **Moving Water:** Partly open

Observers: 144 (123 in 37 parties, 21 watchers at 21 feeders)

Total Party Hours: 232.05 (165.3 on foot, 66.75 by car)

Total Party Miles: 745.85 (117.55 on foot, 628.3 by car)

Hours Spent Watching Feeders: 60.1

Count Totals: 101 species; 31,822 individuals

Participants by Area (Area Leader's names in **bold**):

Area 1. Red Rocks Park (RRP): Cindy Blanchard, Kevin Blanchard, **Bob Brown**, Lea Ann Brown

Area 2. Lower Bear Creek (LBC): Rick Creswell, **Mike Henwood**, Diane Hutton, Lois Levinson, Michele Ostrander, Rob Raker, Janet Shin

Area 2A. Bear Creek Lake Park (BCP): Marianne Batchelder, **Kathy Hawkins**, Kris Koff

Area 3. Bow Mar/Marston (BMM): Mary Cay Burger, Gale Evans, Candice Johnson, Tim Johnson, **Kay Niyo**, Ira Sanders, Tim Smart

Area 4A. Lower South Platte-east (LSP): Mark Amershek, Tom Bunker, Joan Cox, Dave Huthinson, Jeff Hutchinson, Nelson Ford, **Ed Holub**, Thomas Holub (age 12)

Area 4B. Lower South Platte-west (LSP): Steve Kingswood, Bob Knapp, **Robert Shade**

Area 5. Highline Ditch (HLD): **Nancy Crews**, Alan Deegan

Area 6. Plum Creek (PCK): Dan Brooke, **Norm Erthal**, Polly Reetz, Cheryl Teuton

Area 7A. Middle South Platte (MSP): **Randy Lentz**

Area 7B. Middle South Platte (MSP): Marsha Heron, Jed Hertz, **Hugh Kingery**, **Urling Kingery**, Cynthia Madsen, Steve Meier, Deb Ostergard, Daron Seex, Mike Sorruto, Scott Yarberry

Area 8. Chatfield Reservoir (CHA): Carolyn Bartell, Paul Differding, Peggy Gonder, LeAnn Joswick, **Joey Kellner**, Ames Rau

Area 9. Upper South Platte (USP): Betty Glass, **Jill Holden**, Mary Keithler, Meredith McBurney

Area 10. Lower Deer Creek (LDC): Deb Bogar, Art Hudak, Daniel McAdams, Nathan McAdams, Elizabeth Willcockson, **Lynn Willcockson**

Area 11. Upper Deer Creek (UDC): Karen Bellina, Jim Duggan, Toni Rautus, Nina Routh, **Paul Slingsby**, Allen Stokes, Brenda Stokes

Area 12. Yegge Peak (YPK): Audrey Boag, **Ann Bonnell**, Phil Gerkin, Celia Greenaman, Donna Keslin, Michael Kiessig, Steven Sieders, Else Van Erp

Area 13. Doublehead Mountain (DHM): **Amy Davis**, Tim Davis

Area 14. North Turkey Creek (NTC): Ed Furlong, Larry Modesitt, Bruce Neuman, **Dick Schottler**

Area 15. Indian Hills (IHL): Francis Commeron, Cheryl Chessick, Bill Eden, Susan Harper, Kathanne Lynch, Megan Miller, Sharon Pfeifer, Dick Prickett, Warren Roske, Bob Santangelo, Karen von Saltza, **Sherman Wing**

Area 16. Upper Bear Creek (UBC): **Tom Parchman**

Area 17. Ken Caryl Ranch (KCR): **Tom Bush**, Dave Driscoll, Mary Driscoll, Lee Farrell, Linda Farrell, Diane Rahn, Tim Redmond, Harriet Stratton

Area 18. Garrison Gate (GGT): **Steve Stachowiak**

Area 19. Morrison/Willow Brook (MWB): **Mark Chavez**, Kirk Huffstater, Steve Miller, Daren O'Brien, Tom Pollock, Jeff Stroup, Allan {last name not known}

Area 20. Willow Creek (WCK): **Doris Cruze**, Barbara Shissler, , Peggy Wait

Area 21. Mt. Lindo/Willow Springs (MLW): Jeff Dawson, Laura Wathen, **Wayne Wathen**

"Roving Expert and Photographer" – **Glenn Walbek**

2011 Denver Christmas Bird Count Highlights

By Joey Kellner, Compiler

The 2011 Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 17th, the 58th consecutive year that the Denver Field Ornithologists has conducted a Christmas Count within the same 15-mile diameter Count circle established in 1954 and centered just north of the old Ken Caryl Ranch entrance. The weather on count day was mostly sunny with calm to moderate winds. A beautiful day to be out with the team reporting a respectable 31,822 individual birds of 101 species recorded by 123 field observers and 21 feeder watchers. One new species, Brant was added to the cumulative Denver CBC list in 2011 - Cheryl Teuton and Dan Brook relocated the pair of Brant in Area 6 (Plum Creek). The grand total of species seen since 1954 thus goes to 198! The other "rare" birds (seen on less than 10% of the previous Counts) were White-winged Scoter (4th record) in Area 4B, Lesser Black-backed Gull (5th record) in Area 3, Say's Phoebe (6th record) found in area 4A, and Mountain Bluebird (5th record) in Area 6. "Uncommon" birds seen this year included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Golden-crowned Sparrow (both in Area 1).

Record-high individual numbers were established for **five** species this year: Northern Shoveler (1045 vs. 785 in 2004), American Kestrel (77 vs 72 in 2010, Pygmy Nuthatch (580 vs 513 in 2009), Mountain Bluebird (4 vs 2 in 2001), and Townsend's Solitaire (337 vs 302 in 1977)

One notable species was seen in **far** fewer numbers than usual this year was Canada Goose (8,529 individuals seen, the last time it was this low or lower was 6,846 individuals in 1999). This might be accounted for by this Compiler requesting that all Canada Goose counts in each count area take place no later than 8:30am to keep from double- and triple-counting as geese move through multiple count areas throughout the day.

Amazingly, Golden-crowned Kinglet was missed on the count (or count week) for the first time since 1982!

The ten most numerous species observed on the Count were:

1. Canada Goose (8,529), 2. European Starling (2,327), 3. American Crow (2,200), 4. Mallard (1,864), 5. American Robin (1,864) 6. Ring-billed Gull (1,727), 7. Cackling Goose (1,531), 8. Dark-eyed Junco (1,079), 9. House Finch (1,078), 10. Northern Shoveler (1,045). Together, these ten species accounted for 72.9 percent of the birds counted, with Canada Goose alone representing 26.8 percent of the total.

Two additional "Count Week" species were noted in the three days on either side of count day: Glaucous Gull and Rusty Blackbird. An interesting note, Chukar (introduced and not countable, but tracked) were seen for the first time on the count and in two different count areas (Area 19 counted 13 individuals, and Area 21 counted 10 individuals).

As compiler of the 58th Denver Christmas Bird Count, I want to thank all of the field observers and feeder watchers for participating. Special thanks go to the Area Leaders whose efforts and knowledge make this Count a success, to Rick and Connie Steinkamp for volunteering to line up the feeder watchers and for compiling the feeder results. Thanks also to Skot Latona and South Platte Park (South Suburban Parks and Recreation) for the use of the Carson Nature Center for our compilation meeting.

Lastly, thanks to all those that brought drinks and food to share! Sharing food and friendship after a day in the field is a great way to relax before the holidays! Next year's compilation "dinner" will be even bigger and better!

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Jan 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
Feb 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Mar 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Apr 12 **Scheduler needed**
May 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303-863-7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303-280-8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Dec 12 **Scheduler needed**

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt@Q.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750
Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor
Veronica Holt, veronicaholt@Q.com

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists](#) Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2012 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

- Contribution to 2013 research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- Contribution to the DFO Endowment Fund principal \$ _____

If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



eBird: Details and Dynamics

Ted Floyd— February 27

Life Among the Headstones

Dave Leatherman—March 26





Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

APRIL 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 4



Photo of Nathan Pieplow taken by Christian Nunes in the Rio Caura, Venezuela, January 2007

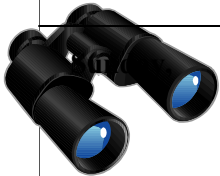
Colorado Bird Sounds: East vs. West Presentation by Nathan Pieplow Monday April 23, at 7.30pm

It's easy to identify a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher -- but can you tell the eastern population from the western population? How about eastern vs. western White-breasted Nuthatches? Warbling Vireos? Marsh Wrens? Voice is the key to identifying all these populations in the field. In this audiovisual presentation, Nathan Pieplow will explain how to tell these groups apart by ear, an excellent skill for birders along the Front Range, which sits right at the boundary between the ranges of these groups, which are all potential candidates for species status.

We'll also discuss two populations that have already been split, and are now causing headaches for many Colorado birders: Winter and Pacific Wrens. We'll conclude with a friendly bird sound quiz for all skill levels.

Nathan Pieplow is the editor of Colorado Birds and an author of the Colorado

Continued on page 3



April Field Trips

April 1 **Walden Ponds**

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 Cell 720-771-8659. Meet leader at 8:00am at Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at Walden Ponds in Boulder County. This will be a half-day trip. Walden is accessed from a short road, which goes west from 75th Street 0.9 mi. north of Valmont Rd. We'll look at ducks and migrants on ponds and in woods in both Walden and Sawhill areas and check to see if the local Osprey pair has returned. We will also look for migrants along Boulder Creek near 75th St. Bring a scope if you have one, along with snacks, water, and appropriate clothes.

Saturday, April 7 **Barr Lake State Park**

Leader: Gregg Goodrich. 303-655-9135 or GreggGoodrich@comcast. Meet Gregg at the Visitor's Center at 8:00am. A long half day depending on the birds. Bring water, snacks, and appropriate clothing. Scopes and lunch optional. We'll look for water fowl, nesting Bald Eagles, early activity at the heronry, and early migrants.

Sunday, April 8 **Easter**

Continued on next page

April Field Trips, continued

Saturday, April 14 Photography Workshop Trip - Mary Carter Greenway, Littleton

Leader: Lee Farrell - contact leader at 303-932-7859 or lee_farrell@comcast.net to register (limit 8 photographers). Meet 7:00am at Carson Nature Center parking lot, located just northeast of the park-n-ride at Santa Fe and Mineral. Off Mineral, one block west of Santa Fe, take South Platte River Parkway (a stop light) north one block to the stop sign. At the stop sign turn left (west) on West Carson Drive to the parking lot. A 4 hour hike along the east side of the South Platte River, practicing bird photography with an emphasis on developing on-the-wing shooting skills, an SLR camera with 300mm or greater lens is recommended. Expect a 3 to 4 mile hike, much of it over maintained trails; attendees should be comfortable hiking similar distances. Wear hiking boots, bring water and snacks.

Thursday, April 19 Heron Rookeries

Leader: Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431. Meet at 9am at the Parker Water & Sanitation NORTH Water Reclamation Facility, 18100 E Woodman Dr, Parker, this is on the North-West corner of C-470 and Parker Rd. Woodman Dr is the first stop light north of C470. We will observe a heron rookery along Cherry Creek. Then we will drive Parker Rd into Denver to see the rookery in Denver City Park near the zoo. Compare & Contrast. Colonial nesters. Bring a scope if you have one. Bring lunch to eat in City Park. Half day trip until about 2pm.

Saturday, April 21st Pueblo Area

Leader: Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728, email paslingsby@comcast.net. Please register with the leader. Meet the leader at 6 am at the south-east corner of the Great Indoors parking lot. We will carpool from there. Great Indoors is just north of the Yosemite exit from C470. Or, from Denver by I-25 use exit 195, and go west on County Line Road to Yosemite. Take Yosemite south to The Great Indoors, which will be on the right (west). We will visit Pueblo City Park, Olive Marsh, Nature Center of Pueblo, Valco Ponds and Lake Pueblo State Park as time permits. Migration should be well under way plus there may be owls or quail. Expect to walk 3 or more miles on easy trails. Telescope and 2-way radios will be useful. Bring a sack lunch. We will try to be back at The Great Indoors by about 6 pm.

Sunday, April 22 Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: David Rhoades, 303 424-8633. We'll bird from 0800-1300, expecting to see grassland birds, ducks, raptors, possible early migrants, likely swallows, and possible burrowing owls. Space is limited by the size of the passenger van that we'll use. Meet at the parking lot of the Visitor Center. Call David to reserve a space and to get directions. Lunch optional (BYO).

Saturday, April 28 Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

Leader: Chishun Kwong 303-709-6097 or chishunkwong@yahoo.com. Contact leader by email. Meet the leader at 7:00am at Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge. From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 3/4 of a mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go one mile west. Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south). Park in the lot near Clear Creek. We'll bird along Clear Creek and visit Tabor Lake for early spring migrants. Our walk will also include the dirt paths in the wetland south of the creek and may involve about 3 miles of walking. Telescope and radio are not necessary but you may want a telescope for the lakes only.

Sunday, April 29 Dinosaur Ridge HawkWatch

Leader: Tim Smart. Meet leader at 8:00am at the Hawk Watch. Trip runs until mid-day. Directions - From I-70 exit 259 (the Morrison exit), head south a short distance on CO 26 and turn left (east) into a Park-'n'-Ride parking lot (the "Stegosaurus" lot). Follow the steep and sometimes muddy trail through a gate and switchbacks up to the top of the ridge. At the top of the ridge turn left, and go through the gate. smrr@juno.com

Scheduled by Chuck Hundertmark

The 2012 Mountain Plover Festival in Karval, Colorado is being held April 27th, 28th, and 29th. Sixty-five plains species were seen last year including, Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, and Eastern Bluebird. For information: karvalalliance@gmail.com or www.karval.org

Meeting Presentations, continued

Birding Trail. An avid sound recordist, he blogs about bird sounds at Earbirding.com. He is currently working on a groundbreaking new field guide to bird sounds. Nathan teaches writing at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

LIFE Among the Headstones” — March 26, 7.30pm

Presenter: David Leatherman, Naturalist, Retired Colorado State Forest Entomologist

Much more than just a “graveyard”, this 40-acre site at the west end of Mountain Avenue in Fort Collins is home to over 600 trees (two of them State Champions), around 20 species of birds on any given visit (190 total during the last 37 years), amazing insects and spiders, a wide variety of plants (native, weedy, ornamental, and plastic), mushrooms, crayfish, deer, squirrels, foxes, golfers, photographers, and other entertaining animals.

Made famous over the years by its sapsuckers, winter finches, a Tropical Parula, and other surprises, this presentation chronicles natural events observed during 300+ visits over the last two years. Learn about shiny wasps with 2-inch long bodies, baby birds over 6 times the mass of their parents, the building materials of hornets, peonies decorated with meadowhawks, and how cute little squirrels can be anything but cute. Featured will be the unprecedented double-nesting at low elevation by Loxy and Larry, an endearing pair of White-winged Crossbills. And no description of this remarkable place would be complete without touching on the strong ties to Nature memorialized at Grandview by the people who rest there and families who visit.

Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Welcome New Members!

David & Carol Edwards, 8040 Raleigh Pl, Westminster, CO 80031 303.429.3310
Visvaldis Jaunarajs, 2422 S Holland St, Lakewood, CO 80227 303.988.2293
George & Molly Mayfield, 4065 Field Dr, Wheat Ridge, Co 80033 720.289.9385
Pamela Munroe, 12829 Mayfair Way #D, Englewood, CO 80112 719.989.4342
Kathleen Stewart, 1568 Madison St, Denver, CO 80206 303.320.1431

Thank you for the contribution to the DFO Endowment Fund: Hugh Kingery, Kathleen Stewart, Will Burt.

Thank you for donation to 2013 grants: Hugh Kingery, Mary Katz, Minerva Canavan

2012 DFO Grants Available

The DFO Endowment Fund

Please help us get the word out!

visit -- <http://www.dfobirders.org>

So Sayeth the Speaker...

On 23 January 2012, Bill Turner, owner of *Tours by Turner*, who leads birding tours to several countries in the world, presented with Bill Eden a fascinating program on their 17-day July 2010 birding trip to Brazil. The group of eight also enjoyed the services of an excellent local Brazilian guide. Bill Turner introduced the presentation with maps and information about the area they traveled through. They flew from Denver via Dallas and Sao Paulo to Cuiabá, the capital of Mato Grosso state. Cuiabá is a modern town of 500,000 that sits in the middle of Brazilian cattle country. From there they pushed further into the interior to the town of Alta Florista and stayed at the remote Cristalino Jungle Lodge. They later drove down into the Pantanal. He said they used the *Field Guide to the Birds of Brazil* by Ber Van Perlo, published in 2009. Brazil has 1,800 species and 60% of South America's birds.

Bill Eden, an excellent birder and wildlife photographer, then presented more information on the trip and showed his photos of many gorgeous Brazilian birds and other wildlife. They stayed at the beautiful, remote Cristalino Jungle Lodge on the Cristalino River. The food was excellent with indoor and outdoor eating areas. The duplex cabins have glass and screens on three sides, hot water, and other modern conveniences. A generator is run twice a day and solar panels provide hot water.

The Cristalino preserve was created by Victoria Carvalho in the 1970s and is now about 30,000 acres. The management plan includes conservation, environmental education to bring young students and adults in for training in sustainable agricultural practices to help allay the old slash and burn methods, sustainable ecotourism, and natural resource research. There are trails through some of the areas but guests are only allowed to venture off the lodge grounds onto the trails with a guide.

Bill showed innumerable stunning photos of the area's wildlife and told a little about each of them. Trips down the river produced Sunbittern, fish-eating Black-collared Hawk, and giant river otters, a member of the weasel family, which eat 10 lb/day of fish, are 5 to 6 ft long, and weigh up to 75 lb. They enjoyed a few of the 1,800 species of butterflies in Brazil. Interesting birds included the Dusky-billed Parrotlet, Bare-faced Curassow male and female, Blue-crowned Trogon, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, which hawks insects and is a burrow nester, and Striated Heron. One of the trails within the preserve's 13 miles of trails includes a 150-ft observation tower. Three levels allow mid-, top-, and above-canopy viewing. They saw Scarlet Macaw and white-whiskered spider monkey. Bill said in the night there were tiny spider eyes visible everywhere as well as red-flashing lightning bugs.

Along the river they observed caiman, Snail Kite, and capybara, the largest rodent in the world—a 140-lb gentle herbivore. They saw Capped Heron with a turquoise-blue bill and golden-yellow neck and breast, Green Ibis, and the Southern Caracara.

They drove along the Transpantaneira, a 94-mile dirt road with about 120 rickety one-lane bridges, to observe the many species of birds in the Pantanal. The road is elevated because from November to March rains flood the area and form gigantic lakes. There they saw giant Victorian water lilies with leaves nearly 5 ft in diameter. Bill photographed a pair of Jabiru with two nestlings, Whistling Heron, and numerous but rare, gorgeous cobalt-blue Hyacinth Macaws. Bill said there are only several thousand remaining in the world. They eat palm nuts and nest in tree holes. Bill Turner, who is a herpetologist, enjoyed showing the group a mildly venomous false water cobra, which he safely caught. They saw Red-crested Cardinal, red brocket deer, the omnivorous and opportunistic crab-eating fox, Scissor-tailed Nightjar, and Plumbeous Ibis. They also were treated to views of a female puma and her two kittens as a huge tapir crossed the road in front of them. Bill had fun photos and stories of the sociable Black-hooded Parakeet that I also photographed in Florida! He showed photos of the Black-backed Water-Tyrant, Rusty-backed Antwren, Southern Screamer, and many other fascinating and beautiful Brazilian species.

Bill Turner said he will be leading a similar trip to Brazil in August 2012 and still has openings. I am sure many in the large DFO audience would love to see those beautiful birds in person!

Kay Niyō

So Sayeth the Speaker...

Ted Floyd, editor of ABA's *Birding*, provided a "homework assignment" for attendees prior to the 27 February 2012 DFO meeting! (See <http://blog.aba.org/2011/12/ebird-changed-my-life.html>.) In his ABA blog, he stated that since 1 January 2007, eBird has changed not only the way he birds, but it has changed his *life*! Ted has entered a list for every day since then!

Ted logged onto his eBird account and provided the DFO audience with an excellent tutorial on its many new amazing features (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>). eBird was launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, and in 10 years has grown to become a gigantic relational database. eBird is a real-time, online checklist program that provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution.

eBird states on the website that "It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in January 2010, participants reported more than 1.5 million bird observations across North America!" The data are used by many educators, land managers, ornithologists, and conservation biologists.

Ted's presentation was interactive and the audience asked excellent questions. He entered his list from birding that day at one of his favorite locations, Greenlee Preserve, near his home. He said eBird particularly wants birders to enter birds seen in urban and suburban areas, not just at spectacular birding sites. If only the birds in special places are listed, that skews the data so that they emphasize the uncommon birds and don't provide the larger picture.

The program will automatically flag an unusual species listed for that location. There is an eBird expert in every geographic area who examines that record and may e-mail the lister to request more details. Tony Leukering, well known to Colorado birders, is the expert who covers this area. If you know you have an unusual bird, you can write details to Tony in the comment field.

Ted responded to a question about entering birds seen in another country by clicking on "Maps," finding the airport where he saw two bird species during a layover in Hamburg, Germany, and entering two European Starlings and three Carrion Crows.

Many birders have personal birding databases and Ted said you can now upload information as a bulk file from programs like Avisys and others. Your data will be shared with the world of birders and researchers. He reminded the audience that eBird is a public site so your data will no longer be private.

eBird allows sharing trip checklists with others who were on the same trip. You can "Explore Data" for a particular species and click on the map to see who reported that bird and the date seen. Under "Bird Observations," you can choose a bar chart and line graph for a particular species in a specific locale.

In response to a question about rare birds sighted in CO, Ted opened the Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) website (<http://cfobirds.org/>) as an example of how eBird data are being used for Coloradans. The recent CO rarities from eBird are listed on the CFO home page by county and date; the eBird map can be clicked on to find their location on that date.

Ted said to enter a birding trip from Evergreen to Mt. Evans, break the trip into locations at the various ecological zones and enter the birds seen at each location separately. For older paper trip-lists without a specific location in CO, enter them generically as CO. If a flag at one of your personal list spots is slightly wrong on the map, you can move it *if* it is not an official eBird spot.

A major point stressed by Ted is to enter your checklists and the whole world has access to your data. A recent example just discussed on COBirds was the early arrival of a few Swainson's Hawks into CO. Historical arrival time can be demonstrated on maps at eBird. In response to a final question related to the security of your personal data on eBird, Ted said he has been assured repeatedly by Cornell that the data are secure and backed up.

As Ted stated in his blog, entering the birds he sees on eBird has altered the way he birds and his life. He admits it is addictive, but it has made him a more careful and better birder. He has met more people, it has improved his quality of life, and it gets him outdoors and away from the computer!

Jeff Gordon, president of the ABA, attended the meeting and was introduced by Ted. Jeff said ABA's new Bird of the Year will be announced in the coming March issue of *Birding*. He said they are advertising for an Events Coordinator. And he reminded DFO members that they have moved the ABA headquarters to Colorado Avenue in old Colorado City, CO and encouraged people to visit.

Kay Niyo

eBird: Ideas for Trip Leaders and Participants

Inspired by Ted Floyd's engaging and entertaining talk about eBird at the February DFO meeting, I spent some time this week avoiding things I should have been doing and exploring eBird instead. In fact, as I prepared to write this article, I opened eBird in my browser so I would have it available for reference. I made the mistake of clicking on a link I had not tried before, and Bingo! Another 15 minutes lost in the land of virtual birding.

But eBird is not just another form of online popcorn to allow us to avoid the other things we **should** be doing. eBird can enhance the value and enjoyment of birding. It is an especially valuable tool for DFO birders and trip leaders. Here are some of the ways trip leaders and participants can use eBird to enhance the usefulness of trip lists as well as personal enjoyment.

For trip leaders, eBird is now the vehicle that DFO wants you to use to enter your trip data. If you have not tried, you will find it is amazingly easy once you have entered data from one trip. Instructions for how to enter DFO trip information in eBird can be found in the Field Trip Leader Instructions on the DFO web site (dfobirds.org). **If you enter your trip report in eBird, it is no longer necessary to fill out the DFO Field Trip Report Form.**

I would like to encourage trip leaders to add a couple of steps to the instructions. When you list observers, list **Denver Field Ornithologists** first. This will make it easier for members and others who are exploring data to spot reports from DFO trips. After that, list your name as trip leader and type "leader" in parentheses after your name. When unexpected species or numbers are reported, eBird has a group of volunteers who contact observers to confirm details. Knowing who the trip leader is can help streamline the checking process. After your name, please list the other trip participants.

After entering the observers, you can enter the other details of your trip. I have heard some trip leaders ask if it is important to list numbers. eBird does allow you to enter an "x" to simply indicate presence of the species. But numbers of each species are the details that make us field ornithologists rather than "tickers."

After entering trip data, the leader will "share" the list with Lark Bunting Editor Veronica Holt as explained in the Field Trip Leader Instructions. If the trip leader takes time to enter the email addresses of trip participants, they will all receive a copy of the trip report as well. (Webmaster Richard Anderson is currently working on revising the trip sign in sheet to include space for email addresses.) The trip leader can also email a copy of the trip report to his or her self. The leader should also be able to share the trip report with Cobirds so other Colorado birders can see what we are finding. However, there appears to be a technical glitch at this writing. Todd Deininger is working Cornell to get this resolved.

DFO trip protocols have long encouraged leaders to keep a separate trip list for each location birded. This becomes even more important on eBird, and it is pretty easy to do. For a walking trip such as a Barr Lake count going from the Visitor Center to the gazebo boardwalk, it is not necessary to enter multiple lists. The walk is within a relatively small area with limited habitat types. But for a trip to Pawnee Grasslands with stops at Windsor Reservoir and Windsor Lake, using three reports will more accurately reflect the locations birded.

For trips that you enter in eBird yourself or that have been shared with you by the trip leader or another birding colleague, you can print the report or download the trip data to an Excel spreadsheet.

Finally, trip leaders and participants alike may find it interesting to prepare for field trips by checking out what birds have been found on previous trips to a destination at the same time of year. The "Explore Data" tab helps with this task. Selecting "Range and Point Maps", allows you to pick a date range, location and species to explore. You can narrow the date range to three months that include your planned trip date. Pick a species you know will be in the location. For example, I'm planning an April 1 DFO trip to Walden Ponds, and I know Canada Geese will be there. Checking the trip lists from birders like Bob Spencer, Christian Nunes, Marcel Such, and Ted Floyd, I find that Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal are good bets, a few shorebirds like both yellowlegs species, and early breeders like Marsh Wrens are possible.

There is much more to explore with eBird, and I think we will all be finding this to be an incredible tool for increasing our birding enjoyment.

Chuck Hundertmark, DFO President

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Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

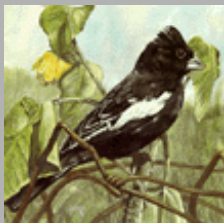
Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt@Q.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750
Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor
Veronica Holt, veronicaholt@Q.com

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net



**The Denver Field
Ornithologists**

2012 Membership Roster

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#).

Denver Field Ornithologists 2012 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

- Contribution to 2013 research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- Contribution to the DFO Endowment Fund principal \$ _____

If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name:

Address

City

State

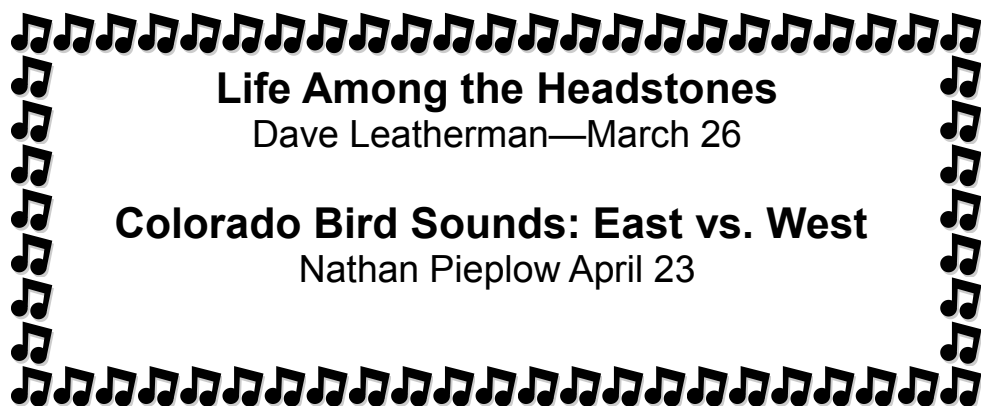
Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Life Among the Headstones

Dave Leatherman—March 26

Colorado Bird Sounds: East vs. West

Nathan Pieplow April 23



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

MAY 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 5



Photo of Nathan Pieplow taken by Christian Nunes in the Rio Caura, Venezuela, January 2007

Colorado Bird Sounds: East vs. West

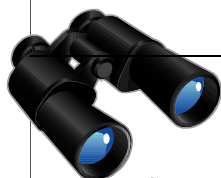
Presentation by Nathan Pieplow

Monday April 23, at 7.30pm

It's easy to identify a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher -- but can you tell the eastern population from the western population? How about eastern vs. western White-breasted Nuthatches? Warbling Vireos? Marsh Wrens? Voice is the key to identifying all these populations in the field. In this audiovisual presentation, Nathan Pieplow will explain how to tell these groups apart by ear, an excellent skill for birders along the Front Range, which sits right at the boundary between the ranges of these groups, which are all potential candidates for species status.

We'll also discuss two populations that have already been split, and are now causing headaches for many Colorado birders: Winter and Pacific Wrens. We'll conclude with a friendly bird sound quiz for all skill levels.

Nathan Pieplow is the editor of Colorado Birds and an author of the Colorado Birding Trail. An avid sound recordist, he blogs about bird sounds at Earbirding.com. He is currently working on a groundbreaking new field guide to bird sounds. Nathan teaches writing at the University of Colorado in Boulder.



May Field Trips

Saturday, May 5

South Platte River Trail

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet leader at the parking area at 88th and South Platte River Trail at 7:30. From I-76 take E. 88th Ave. exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles then turn south at Colorado Blvd. Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead. This trip may last past noon so bring lunch and plenty of drinking water. We will walk along the trail and see which migrants are there as well as enjoy the many resident birds that should be back. Leader is using a scooter for mobility so it will be accessible and easy, level walking. Good trip for new members and novice birders.

Sunday, May 6

Pawnee National Grasslands

Leaders: Tammy and Ira Saunders, 303-278-7172, Meet leaders at 0600 at the *Division of Wildlife*, 6060 No. Broadway – Exit I -25 at 58th Ave., go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Bring lunch, snacks, bug spray and extra water for an all-day trip to see the prairie species found in this fascinating place. Be sure to come with full gas tanks. Call leaders to register for this trip.

Friday, May 11

Cherry Creek Reservoir Leader: Bob Brown (303-791-6204).

Meet at 0630 at the Marina on west side (near Cherry Creek High School) in Cherry Creek State Park. State Parks pass required.

Continued on next page

May Field Trips, continued

Spring Count Weekend! Bird till you drop!
31st Annual Spring Bird Count – 2012
 Everyone welcome – just show up. More eyes spot more birds.

Saturday, May 12

Waterton.

Leader: Hugh Kingery, 303-814-2723.

Downstream. 4-5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed. Meet at 0600 at Audubon Center/Discovery Pavilion (left turn immediately after turning from Wadsworth (Colo. 121) onto Waterton/Roxborough road (4.4 miles south of C470) and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon)

Chatfield State Park

Leader, Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. Meet at 0600 at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. State Parks Pass required.

Lower Bear Creek

Leader: Mike Henwood (303-716-8551, cell 720-840-5070) <hawkhen@aol.com.

Meet at 0600 at parking lot on Morrison Road at C470, northwest corner, next to the Conoco station.

Barr Lake State Park. This is a ten-mile, all-day hike around the lake. State Parks pass required.

Leader: Dick Schottler, 303-278-8035. Call leader if you plan to go. Meet at 0600 at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Exit I-76 at Bromley Lane; go east about ¼ mile and turn right (south) on Lark Bunting Lane, to end of road.

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leaders: Kirk & Kyle Huffstater (303-660-9298). Meet at 0630 at old entrance. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance. State Parks pass required.

Sunday, May 13

Barr Lake periphery. This trip does not involve much walking -- good for people with limited mobility or stamina.

Leader: Dick Anderson, 303-757-4582. Meet at 0730 on access road to entrance station at Barr Lake State Park.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723. Space limited; contact Leader to register.

Saturday, May 19

Rigli Ranch

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-768-7121. Meet leader at ranch by 0830. From Hudson, go east on CO 52 until it turns north. Don't turn north, but continue east on Morgan County road F to CR 14, then turn north for approximately one mile to first house on left by boxcars. Bring lunch and extra water.

Sunday, May 20

Roxborough State Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor's Center for a moderate hike which will gain about 1,000 feet in elevation as you climb up Carpenter Peak Trail. This trip often produces ovenbirds, golden eagles and grosbeaks. State Parks Pass required. Bring snacks and extra drinking water. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles)

Saturday, May 26

Creative Ways to Learn Bird Sounds

Leader: Alison Kondler, Time: 07:30, Phone: 303-973-3959. Meeting Place and Directions: Roxborough State Park Visitor Center. Take South Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield State Park to Waterton Road on left. Take Waterton Road 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road, turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Road. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). Go to top parking lot.

This unique four hour program will teach you a variety of useful techniques to help you memorize bird sounds. We will start indoors with a fun filled presentation, then head outside on an easy, slow paced hike (1 1/2 miles) and practice our new found

Meeting Presentations, continued

Colorado Bird Sounds: East vs. West

Presentation by Nathan Pieplow - Monday April 23, at 7.30pm

It's easy to identify a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher -- but can you tell the eastern population from the western population? How about eastern vs. western White-breasted Nuthatches? Warbling Vireos? Marsh Wrens? Voice is the key to identifying all these populations in the field. In this audiovisual presentation, Nathan Pieplow will explain how to tell these groups apart by ear, an excellent skill for birders along the Front Range, which sits right at the boundary between the ranges of these groups, which are all potential candidates for species status.

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May Field Trips, Continued

skills. Beginner to expert birders welcome! SPACE IS VERY LIMITED. Participants must PRE-REGISTER at the number above (during office hours). Colorado State Parks Pass or Day Fee required. Please arrive on time as a courtesy to the other participants. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Please visit BirdingByEar.com for more details.

Sunday, May 27 Dawson Butte

Leader: Kate Frost, 303-740-6111. Meet leader at 07:30 at the Castle Rocks' McDonalds Restaurant. Dawson Butte is a good, gentle walking area which is slightly higher in elevation than Denver so you can expect to see mountain and foothill birds. Bring a picnic lunch and plenty to drink. Please call leader to register for this trip.

Monday May 28 (Memorial Day) Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Mary Keithler, 303-771-1421. Meet leader at 0800 at the Marina on the west side of the park. This will be a half day trip, ending around 11:30 so lunch is optional but do bring water and snacks. Trip will involve easy walking on trails.

The 2012 Mountain Plover Festival in Karval, Colorado is being held April 27th, 28th, and 29th. Sixty-five plains species were seen last year including, Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, and Eastern Bluebird. For information: karvalalliance@gmail.com or www.karval.org

So Sayeth the Speaker, continued

Do you need a great new book to read?! Dave Leatherman, naturalist and retired Colorado State Forest Entomologist, told DFO members at the 26 March 2012 meeting he is writing a book about “life among the headstones” in Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins. If his presentation to DFO is any indication, it should be an entertaining best seller!

Dave has been birding Grandview Cemetery for 38 years and it is a fascinating place to observe the natural world. The cemetery includes about 22,000 grave spaces on 45 acres of land nestled near the Front Range. Established in 1887, it contains many mature trees and could be described as having a blue spruce/American elm overstory and a bluegrass/peony/lilac understory. Located on the west side of town, it is a natural bridge between the mountains and plains. As its trees have aged, many bird species typical of the foothills now nest there. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are a good example. Treeless sections of the cemetery, although lined with memorial stones, essentially function as meadows. Mountain pine beetles, characteristic of higher altitudes, have killed many pines in and near the cemetery and even Colorado’s biggest white spruce.



The tree resource at Grandview, boasting over 600 large trees, is diverse and valuable. Currently two State Champion trees grow on the cemetery grounds, a stately thornless hon-

eylocust and an Ohio buckeye. As in all urban forests, with increasing tree size and age comes an increased need for maintenance. The first wet snow of autumn 2011 was a great reminder of how challenging and dangerous trees can be. The built-in conflict between wildlife, many of which depend on dead wood and holes, and the issue of liability is very real at Grandview. Dave cheers for the “wildlife” trees and for certain damaged branches to be left, but understands the need for visitor safety.

White-winged Crossbills have been observed on average about every 13 years at Grandview Cemetery. Apparently the explanation is a general spruce cone crop failure in the mountains combined with a better crop in low-elevation, ornamental spruces artificially irrigated. Dave detected a pair in late November 2009. Early indications were this pair was interested in each other. This suspicion proved true, as they pulled off an unprecedented low-elevation, double-nesting in 2010. He posted their activities frequently to COBIRDS and the interest generated by his posts encouraged him to write about “two years in the life of Grandview Cemetery” (the two years being the year of the nesting and the following one). The purpose of the book will be to show the amazing things that happen all around us and don’t require exotic, expensive, long-distance travel.

Dave named the two crossbills “Loxie” and “Larry” based on their scientific name *Loxia leucoptera*. They resided in the cemetery, 3000 feet lower than their normal habitat, from 22 November 2009 to 26 June 2010, utilizing two different large Colorado blue spruces for their nests. White-winged Crossbills have two major requirements: seeds from cones (3000/day) and water in large quantities to dilute chemicals in the seeds. They drink 22% of their body weight per day. Although in summer there is an irrigation ditch that flows through part of the cemetery, in winter and spring the crossbills’ water must be obtained from snow or other sources. To help them out a bit, Dave had cemetery workers pile snow cleared from the roads near their nest tree. This worked great and provided many close-up photo opportunities for birders. However, what would happen once this snow melted? One answer came when he photographed Larry watching the grate-covered live-well near the pump house below the nest tree. Soon Loxie stuck her head through the very small grate holes and climbed out! She had been drinking water down in the live-well.

Continued on next page

So Sayeth the Speaker, continued

During the nest-building process, Dave photographed the female gathering rootlets, Rock Pigeon feathers, and even recycling old House Finch nesting material. In 2010 this pair nested in March/April and again in May/June, both in tall spruces. The nests were high in the trees and hard to observe. In an attempt to learn more, City Forestry friends took Dave up in a bucket truck to within five feet of the nest, but the view was still obscured by a "roof" of live foliage.

A total of 192 species has been seen at Grandview Cemetery over the years, perhaps the rarest being Tropical Parula, Mississippi Kite, and Cape May Warbler. Dave visited the cemetery 166 times in 2010 and 145 in 2011, observing 116 and 107 species, respectively. Great Horned Owls have nested in a big American elm for over 20 years. They usually have two, sometimes three, nestlings. There are a few species that are notable harassers of the owls, including the bravest of the bunch—the Red-Breasted Nuthatch. Cooper's Hawk, American Crows, and Blue Jay also object to the owls, as well as one very feisty female Broad-tailed Hummingbird. On one occasion Dave photographed her hovering above a full-grown yearling owl to the point of driving the monster off. Dave reminded us if we want to find a Golden-crowned Kinglet in the winter, check for a spruce next to a hackberry tree. The kinglets and many other birds feast year around on the psyllids responsible for the nipple and blister galls on hackberry leaves.

Kay Niyo

<http://www.fcgov.com/parks/grandview.php>

Welcome Members!

Thank you for donation to the DFO Endowment Fund: Tom & Diane Bush, Elena Klaver

Thank you for donation to the DFO 2012 grants: Lynn Yehle, Joe Margoshes

New members: Welcome and add to your roster.

Elena Klaver, PO Box 529, Niwot, CO 80544, 303.652.2339

Tom & Gloria Maytham, 3882 S Newport Way, Denver, CO 80237, 303.691.9590

Renewed Member Add to your roster.

Tom & Diane Bush, 25 Sand Cherry, Littleton, CO 80127, 303.904.4576

Don & Barbara Hollums, 6477 Wauconda Dr, Larkspur, CO 80118, 303.681.3144

Alison Kondler, 6492 S Tabor Ct, Littleton, CO 80127, 303.904.9140

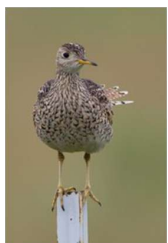
Harold & Betty Oliver, 2787 S Perry St, Denver, CO 80236, 303.936.6902

Nancy Osborn, 2835 S Monaco Pkwy #2206, Denver, CO 80222, 303.584.9130

Birding News and Features From Cornell

BirdCast Migration Forecast: 13 - 19 April 2012

April 13, 2012



Expect the best migration so far this year for at least portions of this week throughout North America. Many areas of the country will see fallout potential this week for passerines and waterbirds. The Desert Southwest and scattered areas of the West should see at least light to moderate movements, and the potential for precipitation means birders should keep a watchful eye on migrant traps. The Great Plains should see an infusion of migrants early in the period before a front passes through the region. Birders in the Upper Midwest and Northeast should finally have a respite from the lackluster migration of the last several weeks, with moderate migration more widespread with the southwesterly flow. The Gulf Coast and Southeast should watch the passage of the low pressure system moving eastward across the country.

It may spawn fallout conditions in numerous states from early in the week through to almost the end of the forecast period. <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news>

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Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt@Q.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750
Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor
Veronica Holt, veronicaholt@Q.com

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rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

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If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

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Name:

Address

City

State

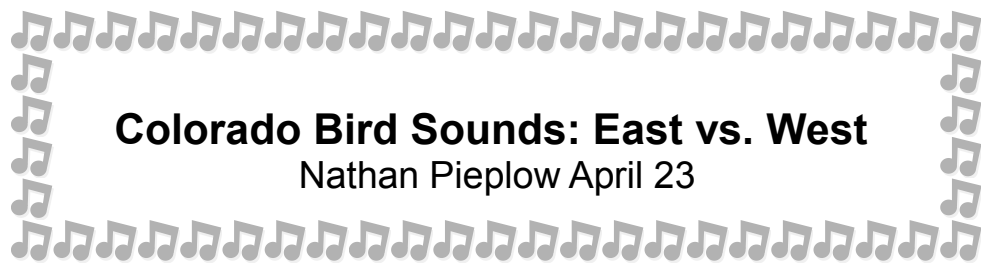
Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Colorado Bird Sounds: East vs. West

Nathan Pieplow April 23



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

JUNE 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 6

“Best Field Trip Leader” Survey

If you participate in Denver Field Ornithologists field trips, please help us identify what makes a good field trip leader. DFO field trips have a great reputation, and we'd like to make our field trip program even better. By completing a short online survey, you can help us determine what makes an excellent field trip leader. Based on your input, we'll expand our current a trip leader guidelines into a development effort to create a broader base of excellent trip leaders.

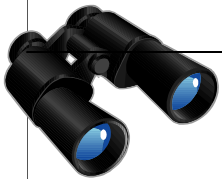
To take the survey, type the link below into your browser. Or, you can go to the DFO web site (www.dfobirders.org) and click on the link. This survey will only accept the first 100 responses, so make your voice heard by completing the survey now.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KHCZ75L>

Once you finish the survey, click the “Done” button.

Thank you.

Chuck Hundertmark, President
Denver Field Ornithologists



June Field Trips

Saturday June 2

Creative Ways to Learn Bird Sounds

Leader: Alison Kondler, Time: 08:30, Phone: 303/973.3959. Meeting Place and Directions: Roxborough State Park Visitor Center. Take South Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield State Park to Waterton Road on left. Take Waterton Road 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road, turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Road. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). Go to top parking lot. This unique four hour program will teach you a variety of useful techniques to help you memorize bird sounds. We will start indoors with a fun filled presentation, then head outside on an easy, slow paced hike (1 ½ miles) to practice our new found skills. Beginner to expert birders welcome! SPACE IS VERY LIMITED. Participants must PRE-REGISTER at the number above (during park office hours). There's still plenty of room, but sign up quick. Colorado State Parks Pass or Day Fee required. Please arrive on time as a courtesy to the other participants. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Please visit <http://www.BirdingByEar.com> for more details.

Continued on next page

June Field Trips, continued

Saturday, June 9

McCabe Meadows

Leader: Mary Cay Burger. Join us for a half day trip to McCabe Meadows Park – highlighting nesting birds in a riparian habitat. This park was formerly known as a Parker Regional Park. Access the park by driving south on Parker Rd from Cherry Creek State Park. Cross Main Street in Parker (still going south). McCabe Meadows is located on the west side of Parker Road about a mile south of Parker's Main Street. For a visual there is a helpful map found at the link below. Meet leader at 7:30am at the park. We will bird until about noon. Bring water, hat, snack. http://www.douglas.co.us/parksandtrails/documents/Cherry_Creek_Regional_Trail_Map_2-25-10.pdf

Sunday, June 10

Pine/Bailey Areas

Leader: Chris Blakeslee, 303.694.4670. Meet leader on the east side of the RTD Park-n-Ride lot at South Wadsworth Blvd. and Hampden (Hwy. 285) at 06:30. This lot is on the south side of Hampden and the west side of Wadsworth. Alternative: meet the group at 07:10 at the Pine Junction Country Store on the west side of Hwy. 285 at the stoplight in Pine Junction. Bring lunch and water for a fun filled day chasing mountain birds from Pine Valley Ranch to Wellington Lake and ending with the Bailey Heron Rookery. All day trip; bring clothing for changeable mountain weather.

Saturday, June 16

Barr Lake

Leaders: Ira and Tammy Sanders. Join Ira and Tammy for a half day trip to Barr Lake State Park. Looking for breeding birds in woodland and riparian habitats. Barr Lake usually presents good numbers of birds and a variety of species. Bald eagles and other raptors, orioles, warblers, sparrows, woodpeckers are likely. Trip will begin in the NW portion of the park. Meet at the Rocky Mtn Bird Observatory parking lot (inside the park) at 7am. At 8:30 we will drive over to the Nature Center (still within the park) and continue birding until noon. You will need a State Parks Pass (or a day pass) for entrance to the park. Bring sunscreen, water, bug repellent, hat. This trip is suitable for beginners.

Sunday, June 17

Lyons Area

Leader: Ray Davis. Join Davis in Lyons for some post-migration birding. Probably no rarities, but should get good looks at birds (with chicks) that nest around Lyons and in Davis's 35 birdhouses. Should see bobolink, 4 swallows, 2 eagles, 2 wrens, 2 chickadees, 4 finches, 3 jays, 3 woodpeckers, 2 bluebirds, 2 nuthatches, dipper, grosbeak, catbird, 3 flycatchers, 4 sparrows, hummingbird, crossbill, merganser (hopefully with chicks), etc. Meet at the Lyons Park-n-Ride just south of 4th and Main St. (by the skateboard park and library) at 8:30 AM. Plan on walking level ground for a mile or three, a bit of car birding, and then eating lunch on Davis's decks until we get bored. Good photo opportunities likely, and all are welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

Saturday, June 23

Lair O' The Bear Park (Jefferson County)

Leaders: Nina Routh 303.987.8687 and Mike Serruto. Lair O' The Bear is located west of Morrison CO, about half way between Idledale and Kittredge. Meet leaders at 8 AM at Lair O' The Bear. Bear Creek runs through the park surrounded by mountain meadows and forested hillsides. A beautiful and birdy area. This trip is limited to 12 people so please call the leader to reserve a spot. We will bird until about noon and then, for those who want, we will adjourn to the Bear Creek Restaurant in Kittredge for lunch and viewing of their hummingbird feeders.

Sunday, June 24

Boulder County

RETURN OF THE GREAT BOULDER CAPER!

Leader: Ted Floyd. Last fall, DFO and the American Birding Association teamed up to offer the first-ever GREAT BOULDER CAPER. The event was great fun, and everybody wanted to do it again.

Our next caper will be Sunday, June "20th Century progressive dinner party", you can join or leave the caper whenever you want to. We will have two basic starting times, but you can join us at any point; just e-mail the leader (see below) and come find us. First official start time: 5am sharp (prompt departure) from Teller Farms parking area off Valmont Road. Second official start time: 8:00 a.m. (leisurely departure) at Cottonwood Marsh off 75th Street. After a ramble around Cottonwood Marsh, we will caper to other Boulder County hot spots, probably in the foothills or mountains.

June Field Trips, continued

RSVP required. E-mail only. Contact leader Ted Floyd (tfloyd@aba.org), and please clearly indicated in subject area: GREAT BOULDER CAPER. In all caps, just like that.

Saturday, June 30

Chicago Creek

Trip Leader: Bob Shade 303-975-2476. Cell: 720-256-4376.

Primary target species: Fox Sparrow (Slate-colored subspecies) in willow carr at 11,000 feet. One of the few nearby sites to see this species on the breeding grounds. A new location for DFO trips? Directions: Meet at 0730 at Fillius Park. Go west on I-70 and get off at Exit 252 (Evergreen Exit) and follow the Evergreen Parkway/CO 74 in a westerly direction 2.5 miles to the Bergen Parkway intersection. Turn right and immediately find the Fillius Park parking lot where we will meet and arrange car-pooling for the drive toward Mt Evans. From the Chicago Creek campground it is a 3.6 mile (one way) moderately strenuous hike uphill to timberline. Please bring lunch and water, wear sturdy hiking shoes and clothing for sudden weather changes and high elevations. Please call Bob if you plan to go.

Welcome New Member!

Roger Rouch, 4625 Vance St, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033, 303.423.0488

Cornell Students Chase Fourth World Series of Birding Win

The Redheads compete to raise funds for student research

For release: May 8, 2012

Ithaca, NY—They are talented, energetic, and "totally pumped" for a 24-hour bout of non-stop birding. They are **The Redheads**—five students representing the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at the 29th annual World Series of Birding competition in New Jersey, on Saturday, May 12, a.k.a. the "Big Day." The goal of any Big Day contest is to identify the most species of birds by sight or sound in 24 hours. The Redheads (named for Cornell "Big Red" sports teams—and the Redhead duck) have won the Cape May County division of the competition for the past three years. During the World Series, teams raise funds for bird conservation by collecting pledges for each species tallied.

"Funds raised by The Redheads are used for undergraduate expeditions and research projects," explains sophomore Hope Batcheller, team captain. "These endeavors are valuable learning experiences and have made exciting new contributions to our knowledge of bird biology and distribution. Recent projects include an expedition to Peru's Gran Pajonal region, and studies on impacts of the Gulf Coast oil spill. These projects are completely driven by students and would not have been possible without the funds raised by The Redheads." The Cornell Lab is also fielding a team in the Carbon Footprint Challenge division of the World Series. Three Lab staff, called the **Anti-Petrels**, will bike and bird across Cape May County seeking their third championship in a row. In 2011, they cycled more than 100 miles to tally 144 species. Team member and Cornell Lab science editor Hugh Powell hopes to surpass that total, with a little cooperation from migrants and Mother Nature. No downpours, please. "Nearly anyone can enjoy this type of birding" Powell says. "You just have to slow your pace a little bit. We keep hoping that we can grow this category and get more people interested in birding by bike, wherever they live."

Media Contact; Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ph: (607) 254-2137, pel27@cornell.edu www.birds.cornell.edu/

So Sayeth the Speaker...

Nathan Pieplow, editor of *Colorado Birds* and an accomplished bird sound expert, presented a very well organized and informative tutorial on “Sound Boundaries: E vs. W Birds by Ear” at the 23 April 2012 DFO meeting. He regularly presents valuable bird sound information on his blog, www.earbirding.com.

Nathan began with a map showing the approximate boundary of most eastern and western bird species and subspecies in North America, which, luckily for us, generally divides CO in half north to south. Coloradans may be able to encounter more than one subspecies within our state. He used five birds as examples of differences in types of songs/calls. The Pacific and Winter Wrens were recently split. Potential splits, possibly within the next 10 years, are Warbling Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Nathan said bird vocal identification is sometimes difficult, but not impossible. The best way to learn is to see what you hear: look at a spectrogram while you listen. The simplest sounds are whistled songs, which show up on a spectrogram as nonvertical lines. As whistles grow more vertical, they sound less musical. A completely vertical line on the spectrogram sounds like a pop or a click.

The now-split **Pacific** and **Winter Wrens** are examples of musical trill songs that are very long, complicated, and high-pitched. The key is to listen for the trills “inside” the song. He said a few Pacific Wrens may be found along the CO Front Range in the winter, but most birds we see are Winter Wrens. He described the Pacific Wren as having a less musical trill and the Winter Wren, a more musical trill. If the trill sounds drier and more mechanical like a Chipping Sparrow, it is a Pacific Wren; if it sounds sweeter and more musical like a junco, it is a Winter Wren. The call notes contrast in their tonal quality: Pacific Wren is sharper and less musical, like pebbles being knocked together, and the Winter Wren is squeakier and sounds like a Song Sparrow’s winter call.

The **Warbling Vireo** populations in the east and west may be split. The western subspecies inhabits the foothills and mountains of CO, while the eastern subspecies can apparently be found on the eastern plains. He said to listen for the up/down pattern in their song; they never say the same thing twice. The western subspecies has more screechy notes that go up and down on the spectrogram, whereas the eastern’s notes are low in the beginning with high notes toward the end and the sound is mellower.

The nasal song of the **White-breasted Nuthatch** is stacks of whistles, one above another, on the spectrogram. There are four genetic forms: Pacific, Sierra Nevadas, Rockies, and East. But the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mt. populations sound the same; hence, only three vocal forms. Listen for the rhythm. The Rocky Mt. has a rapid-fire sound, whereas the eastern form gives a single *yank, yank*. He warned to beware of fast songs of both forms: they are nearly identical. If the bird gives notes in series that are slow enough to count, it could be either form. If the notes are too fast to count it is a Rocky Mt. bird, if single and long, it’s an eastern bird.

The eastern **Marsh Wren** range extends from the eastern U.S. to the middle of NE, and may occur in CO in migration and winter, but has never been documented. The call notes of the two forms are identical; so listen for the differences. Amazingly, the western Marsh Wren has 100–200 songs and doesn’t repeat for a long time. The eastern form has 40–60 songs. Both forms sing 1–3 introductory notes followed by a trill; the introductory notes are the best clue as to the form. The western form uses short clicks, *tuk, tuk*, that are shorter. The eastern form uses a buzzy *jeer* or *bzzt* that is noisier, but not louder.

The **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** is an example of one of the birds that sings polyphonic songs, i.e, sings with both sides of the syrinx independently. It sounds “whiny” or “wiry” as when you run your finger up a piano wire, or like a kitten meow—two notes at the same time. The spectrogram shows stacks of whistles, like a nasal sound, except that the patterns of dark and light whistles are irregularly spaced. It is a good candidate for an E/W split with mid-CO as the dividing line. We don’t know if the eastern blue-grays breed in CO; they may in the extreme southeast. They apparently migrate through easternmost CO. Listen for the pattern and pitch. The western form is more up and down, *wow, wow*; whereas the eastern form is less obvious up and down.

Nathan gave the audience a quiz of 10 bird songs with sounds and spectrograms. Amazingly, three individuals won a small prize by getting nine of 12 possible points! Thanks to Nathan for an extremely well-organized simplification of a very complex subject.

Kay Niyo

A Bit of DFO History...

The Beginnings of DFO by Carol Cochran

Recently I spent a few hours in the Archives at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS), reading the early history of Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO). As a DFO member and former employee of DMNS, I was interested to learn that the close relationship between the two organizations has been there from the beginning. Neither organization had its current name back in 1935, when on January 27 the as-yet unnamed bird club met at the Colorado Museum of Natural History. Twenty-two people came together then; most or all were students in Mr. Robert J. Niedrach's ornithology class at the University of Denver who wanted to continue their study of birds in a group or club.

Members proposed names for the club at this first meeting. Their suggestions were The Robert J. Niedrach Bird Club, The Robert J. Niedrach Ornithology Club, and The Robert J. Niedrach Nature Club. These suggestions are evidence of the admiration and affection club members felt for their "guide and counselor."

Niedrach was an important figure in the history of the club, of the museum, and of early ornithology. He was a high school drop-out who came to Denver in 1910 as a young taxidermist. Two years later he became an assistant to Frederick C. Lincoln, Curator of Birds at the Museum. There he stayed for nearly 60 years, serving as Preparator, Curator of Birds, and Assistant to Museum Director Alfred M. Bailey. Along the way, this self-educated ornithologist was awarded an Honorary Masters Degree in Science and an Honorary Doctors Degree in Science from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He was widely published, was responsible for a number of Colorado's first state records, (including a Scissor-tailed flycatcher, a Chestnut-sided warbler, and a Cerulean warbler, all in the DMNS collection), was well-travelled, and was a befriender of wildlife, most notably of his companion, Dick, the raven. Niedrach was serious about education: he developed a traveling exhibit of specimens which visited schools, conducted Saturday morning programs on birds and wildlife, mentored Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls, and initiated the Museum's education department in 1969. It's little wonder then that Niedrach was behind the founding of DFO.

Minutes of that first bird club meeting, recorded by Secretary Margaret Pritchett, note that Niedrach appreciated the gesture of a club in his name, but thought it more appropriate that the word "bird" appear most prominently in the title. At the next meeting, members named their organization The Colorado Bird Club. Mrs. Pritchett records other business of that first meeting. "Mr. Niedrach advised that the club keep out of political wrangling which has been detrimental to a number of outdoor organizations, but that the group should stand back of [that is, support] laws for bird protection." Helena K. Wosnuk was elected President; dues were set at \$1 per year, and the group decided to look to the Colorado Mountain Club for information on starting a non-profit organization.

Meetings were held every month, except the summer months, at 8 pm at the Museum; they included a business meeting, a talk, reports of bird sightings, and refreshments. During the April 1935 meeting, the group approved a letter to Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes supporting the establishment of wildlife refuges as part of the Taylor Grazing Act. Also at this meeting, Miss Tate passed around an object she'd acquired in Mississippi which she thought might be unfamiliar to members: it was the skin of a European starling. That was a sign of the times, as was this item in the minutes of a 1936 meeting: the Club had posted a sign on 32nd and Kearney warning that the burrowing owls in that vicinity were under the protection of the Colorado Bird Club and the Museum. (Other evidence of Park Hill's prairie ancestry is the mount of a black-footed ferret taken in that neighborhood in 1912 and now in the Museum's collection.)

In an undated recollection, Margaret Pritchett sent these words to all of us: "Those of us who have been members of the Club longest hope that the people who attend the meetings now and who go on field trips will continue to derive the same inspiration and keen pleasure which the first members always enjoyed through their earnest observation and faithful pursuit of Nature's wonders in the out-of-doors, particularly in the study of birds."

DMNS has DFO minutes and other records from the beginning to the present, thanks to the careful preservation and donation of people like Warren Finch, long-time DFO historian. These records are easily accessible at DMNS, and have been scanned and will soon be on-line. They are a lot of fun to read, and provide important historical and ornithological information. You are welcome, and in fact encouraged, to view them for yourselves—and to contribute your own portion of the history of DFO and Colorado birding with donations of your field notes, check lists, photos, scrapbooks and other materials.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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VICE PRESIDENT

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FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Jan 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
Feb 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
May 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303-863-7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303-280-8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Dec 12 **Scheduler needed**

Communications

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Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

JULY 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 7

HYENAS AND OTHER TAILS A Trip to Kenya with Norm Erthal Monday August 27, 7.30pm

Lying on the equator, Kenya has a tropical climate as well as a wide range of habitats. Desert, savanna, acacia-scrub, montane forest, lowland rain forest, alkaline or soda lakes, and papyrus swamps provide home to at least 1106 species. With the continuing taxonomic changes, this is a difficult number to keep track of.

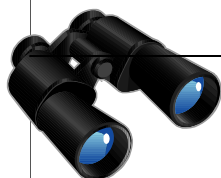
We encountered a total of 602 species with Hamerkop, the unique Secretary-Bird, Bateleur, Great Blue Turaco, Northern Carmine Bee-eater just a few of the highlights.

Guineafowl, Bustards, Crab-Plover, Turacos, Mousebirds, African Barbets, Babblers, and Batises comprise some of the 88 families. The brilliance of the many starlings and sunbirds is stunning.



Continued on page 3

July Field Trips



Saturday, July 7

Golden Gate State Park

Leader: Randy Lentz 303.680.3381. Meet at 7:30am at Park Visitor center. From Golden, take Highway 93 north for about one mile to Golden Gate Canyon Road. Turn left and continue for about 15 miles until park entrance on your right. Visitor Center is just beyond this entrance. Golden Gate's various habitats attract a wide diversity of birdlife. Main group will bird until lunch. Birding after lunch optional based on weather.

Sunday, July 8

Rocky Mountain National Park

Leader: Ed Holub 303.979.2194. Meet at 8:00am at the Park's Visitor's Center, east of Beaver Meadows entrance on U.S. highway 36. Three quarter's day trip. Bring lunch and clothes for changeable weather. Either you need a have a parks pass, to ride with someone who has one, or be prepared to pay an entry fee. Hope to see 35 to 40 species.

Saturday, July 14

Woodpecker Trip - Sedalia to Cheesman

Leaders: Chris Blakeslee, 303.694.4670 and Kirk Huffstater. Meet leaders in parking lot of Sedalia Post Office at 06:00. Take Hwy. 85 to Sedalia in Douglas County; turn southwest on Hwy. 67, drive through Sedalia over two major sets of railroad tracks. The U.S. Post Office is on the northwest (right) side of Hwy. 67. Group will carpool from here. Bring lunch and water for a fun filled day chasing woodpeckers and any other mountain birds that may cross

Continued on next page

July Field Trips, continued

our paths. Bring clothing for changeable mountain weather. Full day trip. We will target 8 woodpecker species including N. Three-toed, Lewis's, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. **Limit of 15 birders; must make a reservation.**

Sunday, July 15 Lair o' the Bear

Leader: Toni Rautus 303.422.7322. Meet at 7:00am at Lair o' the Bear parking lot. From Morrison and C-470, drive 4 miles west on Highway 74 to park entrance on the left. This is a beautiful Jefferson County Park with lush riparian habitat. Should see a good variety of breeding mountain birds. We will bird until about noon and then, for those who want, we will adjourn to the Bear Creek Restaurant in Kittredge for lunch and viewing of their hummingbird feeders **This trip is limited to 12 participants, so please call the leader to reserve a spot.**

Saturday, July 21 Parker area

Leader: Mary Cay Burger 303.771.3431. Meet at 7:00am. Drive south on Parker Road going 1.5 miles past Main Street in Parker. Turn right at Indian Pipe Lane, entering East Bank Park. We will be in riparian habitat next to Cherry Creek. This will be a half day trip. Bring water and snacks for about 4 hours of birding.

Sunday, July 22 Lyons area

Leader: Raymond Davis 303.823.5332. Join Davis in Lyons for some mid-summer birding. We should find 3 species of hummingbirds at feeders and get good looks at the birds that nest around Lyons and in Davis's 35 bird-houses. Meet at the Lyons Park-n-Ride just south of 4th and Main St. (by the skateboard park and library) at 8:30am. Plan on walking level ground for a mile or three, a bit of car birding, and then eating lunch on Davis's decks until we get bored. Good photo opportunities likely, and all are welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

Thursday, July 26 Mount Evans area

Leader: Bob Shade 303.975.2476 or cell 720.256.4376. Meet at 7:30am at Filius Park. Go west on I-70 to Evergreen exit #252 and follow the Evergreen Parkway/CO 74 in a westerly direction 2.5 miles to the Bergen Park Intersection. Turn right and immediately find the Filius Park entrance and parking lot. We will meet there and arrange car-pooling for the ten mile drive toward Mt. Evans. Last year we saw Brown-capped Rosy-Finches and Pipits on the breeding grounds and Mountain Goats. Ptarmigan and Pine Grosbeak possible. We are going on a weekday to avoid the crowds. Bring lunch and clothes for all kinds of weather. (We may go as high as 14,000 feet.) Will bird until about mid-afternoon. **Please call Bob if you can come.**

Saturday, July 28 Filius and other foothills Parks

Leader: Lynn Willcockson 303-757-7000. Meet at 8:00am at Filius Park. From Denver, head West on I-70. Take Exit 252 to Highway 74. Follow 74, about a mile and a half, as it curves somewhat south then westward to the entrance to the park. We will start here and explore other nearby parks. Potential for a very good variety of birds in these niches. Bring lunch, will bird until about 2pm.

Sunday, July 29 Shrine Ridge & Summit County

Leader: Rhonda Kelly 303.386.2311. Meet at 6:30am at the I-70 T-Rex parking lot. Go west on I-70 to exit #259, turn right at light, then right again into the T-Rex parking lot. Carpooling will be arranged there. Full day trip (back by 4:00pm). Bring lunch, clothing for changeable weather at around 11,000'. The trail crosses some wetlands and a treed meadow area. Wildflowers carpet the ground around the trail. From the meadow, the trail climbs through a forested area. Gray Jays are friendly and common along the first half of the trail, where American Robins, Northern Flickers, Pine Grosbeaks and Clark's Nutcracker can also be found. White-crowned sparrow families frequent the meadow's streams, and Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers can be spotted in the stream-side shrubs. Once the trail enters the wooded area, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Mountain Chickadees and Hairy Woodpeckers can be seen.

Coordinated by Jill Boice

Meeting presentation, continued



There are only seven endemics of which we observed five. Taita Thrush, Hinde's Babbler, Sharpe's Longclaw, Luhder's Bush-Shrike, Aberdare Cisticola are some of the most rare and localized species in the world. Then there is the amazing variety and quantity of mammals. It is difficult to imagine that a person can become blasé when seeing elephants, giraffes, and the like.

Organizing and leading 14 foreign trips to 13 countries, including Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Spain, Australia, Ecuador, Kenya, Peru, and Bhutan, has been a fortunate part of Norm Erthal's life.

*Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door, although this does cause problems for our hosts. Meetings start **promptly** at 7.30pm, and are open to the public without charge.*

There will be more information about the DFO fall presentations in the next issue of the Lark Bunting.

Welcome New Members!

Linda Broeren, 925 Galena St, Aurora, CO 80010, 303.364.0734 Welcome Back!
 Cindy Cain, 7053 S Tamarac St, Englewood CO 80112, 303.726.2345
 Mark Dymerski, 11274 W 54th LN, Arvada, CO 80002, 303.947.7308
 Cyndy Johnson, 2347 S Eldridge Ct, Lakewood, CO 80228, 303.378.1335
 Walter & Linda Knudsen, 413 S Devinney St, Lakewood, CO 80228, 303.985.2264
 JoAnn Miller, 5013 S Allison Way, Lakewood, CO 80123, 303.233.6523
 Charlotte Rath, 3131 Zuni St #102, Denver, CO 80211
 Gary & Lora Witt, 5960 S Race St, Greenwood Village, CO 80121, 303.905.6985



Cornell's Question of the Week

Q. If I handle a baby bird, won't its parents pick up my scent and abandon it?

A. It's a myth that parent birds will abandon young that have been touched by humans—most birds have a poor sense of smell, and birds in general identify their young using the same cues we humans do—appearance and sound. It's perfectly safe to pick up a fallen nestling and put it back in the nest, or to carry a fledgling out of danger and place it in a tree or shrub.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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80121 nmgrantsr@aol.com 303.761.9967

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Kay Niyo (2014) kay@kayniyo.com
Ira Sanders (2014) greatauk@msn.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014) lynnliz2698@aol.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)
candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Meredith McBurney (2015)
meredithmcburney@msn.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015) wuerthel@ecentral.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place,
Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Jan 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
Feb 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
May 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303-863-7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303-280-8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Dec 12 **Scheduler needed**

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt@Q.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750
Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor
Veronica Holt, veronicaholt@Q.com

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists](#) Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2012 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

- Contribution to 2013 research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- Contribution to the DFO Endowment Fund principal \$ _____

If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

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HYENAS AND OTHER TAILS
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Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

AUGUST 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 8

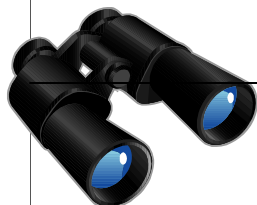
Digital Photography: Aid to Better Bird Watching with Lee Farrell Monday September 24

On the 2010 DFO member survey, one member noted that DFO has a number of excellent photographers and suggested that some of our programs feature those photographers. Our September 24th meeting will respond to that suggestion when member Lee Farrell talks about digital photography as an aid to better bird watching.

In addition to outstanding photos by this well-respected photographer, the program will encourage audience participation using the Turningpoint audience participation software.



Continued on page 3



August Field Trips

Saturday, August 4

Gregory Canyon

Leader: Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728

Meet leader at I-70 and Ward Road Park-N-Ride at 0600 or you can meet the group at Gregory Canyon at 0700. There is a fee and very limited parking there so please contact leader to arrange carpooling so the minimum amount of cars will be there. This is a half day trip so lunch is optional but you will need drinking water and snacks.

Sunday, August 5

Rocky Mountain National Park

Leader: Ed Holub, 303-979-2194

Meet leader at 0800 at Park Visitor's Center, east of Beaver Meadows entrance on US 36. Three-quarter day trip, bring lunch and water. National Parks Pass required. Call leader if going.

Saturday, August 11

Longmont Area

Leaders: Chris Owens 303-772-6048

Meet leader at 0730 at Jim Hamm Park. From I-25 take Exit 240. To reach the park, go west four miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld County Line Road, then north two miles to Jim Hamm Park at 17th Ave. This will be a half day day trip so lunch is optional but do bring extra water. Meet at Jim Hamm at 7:30 am. Will bird until noon and plan on walking about 1.5 miles.

Continued on next page

August Field Trips, continued

Sunday, August 12 **Mt. Falcon**

Leader: Lois Levinson 303-908-3403

Meet leader at 0800 at the upper parking lot. From C-470 and US 285 South: Turn right at the Indian Hills exit (CO Rd. 120 / Parmalee Gulch Rd.). Follow Parmalee Gulch Road for 5 miles to Picutis Road, then follow the signs for Mt. Falcon to the upper parking area. This will be a half day trip so lunch is optional but bring water and snacks. Call leader if you are going.

Saturday, August 18 **Wheat Ridge Greenbelt**

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644

Meet leader at Prospect Park near public restrooms at 0730 at Clear Creek in Wheat Ridge. Go south from West 44th between Quail and Robb Streets. Half day trip, easy walking, accessible for mobility impaired individuals. Bring water and a snack, lunch optional. Good trip for novice birders and new members.

Sunday, August 19 **Chatfield State Park**

Leader: Harriet Stratton, 303-798-9924

Meet leader just inside the park entrance off S. Wadsworth, 1½ miles south of C-470. State Parks Pass required. This will be a half-day trip so lunch will be optional but bring water and a snack.

Saturday, August 25\. **Rigli Ranch**

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-768-7121

Meet leader at ranch by 0830. From Hudson, go east on CO 52 until it turns north. Don't turn north, but continue east on Morgan County road F to CR 14, then turn north for approximately one mile to first house on left by boxcars. Bring lunch and extra water.

Sunday, August 26 **Northeastern Colorado, Prewitt and Jackson Reservoirs**

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748

Meet leader at 0530 at the Division of Wildlife, 6060 No. Broadway – Exit I-25 at 58th Ave., go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Habitat Stamp for State Wildlife Areas and State Parks Pass required. This is an all day trip so bring lunch and plenty of water and bug spray. Call leader if going.

Scheduled and Coordinated by Jackie King

Kestrel Banding Information Request

One of my bluebird volunteers recently asked about American Kestrel population monitoring. She was wondering if anyone in this area is banding kestrels since she has an active nest with chicks in a flicker box in her back yard. According to the Peregrine Fund website, there is a kestrel population decline and the American Kestrel Partnership is looking for monitoring data. Does anyone know of a local kestrel contact? Thanks for any info!

Barbara Spagnuolo, *Natural Resource Specialist*

Town of Castle Rock Parks & Recreation Dept.

2301 Woodlands Blvd.

Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

Phone: 720-733-2294

Fax: 303-660-1011

Cell: 303-472-6986

Email: bspagnuolo@CRgov.com

Web: www.CRgov.com

August Meeting presentation, continued



A serious amateur photographer, Lee has combined a love of birds with a passion for photography with a focus on capturing bird behavior.

He is a volunteer with the ColonyWatch and the Dinosaur Ridge HawkWatch, two citizen science projects of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

Monday August 27 Hyenas and Other Tails a trip to Kenya with Norm Erthal

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Welcome New Members!

Ruth McCarrison, 4863 Hopkins Pl, Boulder, CO 80301, 720.255.3783

Alice Turak, 1534 S York St, Denver, CO 80210

Cornell's Citizen Science

Citizen-science participants collect data on continentwide scales through time, enabling scientists to improve the scientific understand and conservation of birds. Below, we highlight a major finding.



Judy Howle/GBBC

House Finch Eye Disease. In the winter of 1993–1994, people in the Washington, D.C., area began seeing House Finches at their bird feeders with a strange new disease. The area around the finches' eyes was red and swollen, and in some cases the birds had become blind. The cause of the disease was identified as a common bacterial pathogen of domestic poultry. The bacteria had unexpectedly mutated and jumped to House Finches. Within three years, roughly 60% of House Finches in eastern North America were dead. The disease has persisted since then, and House Finch numbers have yet to recover completely. Bird Population Studies researchers developed a citizen-science monitoring program called the House Finch Disease Survey to document the spread of the disease and used additional citizen-science data to describe its impacts. Further work investigated why the pathogen has been so successful and the disease so persistent. The goal is to gain a better understanding of the ecology of other diseases in other organisms, including humans. This work involves close collaboration with researchers at five universities.

West Nile Virus. When West Nile virus arrived in North America in 1999 scientists began to document the sharp declines it caused in American Crow populations. Deaths of smaller, less common birds have been more difficult to detect; details of which species are affected, and how severely, are still not well known. We are analyzing data from citizen-science databases, including the Christmas Bird Count, North American Breeding Bird Survey, and Project FeederWatch.

Our goals include understanding which bird species have been affected by West Nile virus, whether ecological factors such as bird species diversity have altered the virus's effects across the continent, and whether populations of affected birds are recovering.

The East High Angel Garden



Dear Denver Field Ornithologists:

The East High Angel garden brings serenity and peace to the hectic lives of the East High community, but what is even more pleasurable about it is that it also tells the deep history of the school we cherish and love. The Denver East Angel Garden is not only a peaceful place to relax, to hang out with your comrades, or to enjoy a pleasant day, but it is also a National Wildlife Habitat for many different types of animals, including: raccoons to earthworms, and winged creatures from Goldfinches to Sharp-shinned Hawks. The garden area also has a new addition, an owl's nest on the fourth floor of the school overlooking the garden and south lawn. Because we have created an urban oasis for the vast forms of native Colorado plants and wildlife, the Angel Garden means a great deal to the students, faculty and Denver community surrounding East.

You can tell the students of East enjoy the Angel Garden. Many, many students are attracted to the area every day. At lunch time, hundreds of kids swarm the garden to enjoy lunch. After school, you can find the students—and even young couples—sitting in the shade of the great Douglas-Fir and Oak trees and waiting for their parental units to come pick them up after a long day of learning. Now that it is summer, you can find this even more readily. For example, there is a group of freshman that enjoys the garden every day at lunch. There must be at least 75 of them. We like to refer to them as “The Gaggle.” Being in the theatre, I usually eat my lunch inside, onstage, but now that the weather is nice, I can enjoy the garden everyday by eating my lunch outside. I can tell the students enjoy the garden, and respect the animals and plants in the garden. These animals also act as good role models in some sorts. They teach us to respect the world we live in and each other, as well as proper parenting skills. The students also get some value of the garden from their classes.

Teachers are as entitled to and appreciative of the beauty of the garden as much as the students. You can also find the teachers of East celebrating spring in the garden daily. They like to go over and enjoy the flowers, the local and migrating birds, the history and the peace that it brings their hectic lives. Although they are usually trapped inside during lunch hours to help flustered students, they do find time to enjoy it. One adult at East seems to enjoy the garden more than any of the others, Brendan Doyle. You can find him maintaining the garden along with several others students almost every day at lunch. They fill the feeders, give the animal some water and collaborate on ideas for applying for grants and applying for the wildlife habitat certification. Without him, the garden wouldn't be as beautiful and as well maintained as it is today. Teachers also like to bring their classes down to use the garden as a “lab” or a “classroom.” Biology or Zoology classes use this wildlife habitat to their advantage. This way not only the students and community can enjoy, but the teachers can too.

The community is also extremely involved in the indulgence of the garden. The Denver community is very athletic and likes the outdoors. You can come to this garden every day and find a couple people sitting, relaxing and being engulfed by the delight of nature, despite being enveloped by urban sprawl.

Continued on next page

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Annual BBQ for the Birds

Saturday, August 25, 2012

Old Stone House Environmental Learning Center

14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, Colo. (north entrance to Barr Lake State Park off Bromley Lane) **Schedule**

7-10:30 a.m. Bird Banding Station Open

7 and 8 a.m. Bird Walks with RMBO Biologist

8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Silent Auction Open

8 - 11:30 a.m. Kids' Games & Crafts

9 a.m. Family Nature Hike

9 a.m. Workshops/Presentations:

Wildlife Photography

Sketching Birds

Backyard Wildlife Habitats

9 - 11 a.m. Live Raptors

9 - 11 a.m. Live Music

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Exhibits

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Face Painting

10 a.m. Workshops/Presentations:

◆ Local Habitats & Plantings — Tour of ELC Site

◆ Mysteries of the Black Swift

◆ Small Owl Banding

11:10 a.m. Welcome & Awards Presentation

11:30 a.m. "Return of the Peregrine Falcon" Presentation by Jim Enderson

12 noon Picnic Lunch & Live Music

12:30 p.m. Live Auction

12:45 p.m. Peregrine Falcon Slide Show

◆ *"Return of the Peregrine Falcon" by featured speaker Jim Enderson, a leader in the recovery of this amazing raptor*
Presentations, Workshops, Bird Banding, Bird Walks, Kids' Activities, Live Raptor, Music, Exhibitors, Silent & Live Auction.
Catered Picnic Lunch

Admission includes lunch and all activities: \$11 members \$13 non-members \$6 ages 5 through 12 Under 5 free

Register by August 17 for \$1 off per person. No refunds after August 17, Register at www.rmbo.org, or 303-659-4348 ext. 17, by August 23, or at the door (cash, check, Mastercard, Visa, or Discover)

Proceeds benefit the Observatory's environmental

East High Angel Garden, continued.

Proud citizens of Congress Park, Capitol Hill, and Park Hill all enjoy the garden. East is right on Colfax Ave., so we tend to get a wide variety of people. We get spectators from rich, highbrow families that live life in lap of luxury in the rich neighborhoods that come to the garden. We also get bums with only half their teeth as regular visitors, but we're just glad that they are here in the comfort of our garden and the beauty of our school.

Now to address what does the garden mean to me? Well the garden is a beautiful place filled with people of all walks of life and all kinds of animals. It is quiet, but can get really crazy when birds are in a feeding frenzy. It has inspired me to build my Eagle Scout Service Project near the garden, which will be a pergola. It is a nice place to hang out and a nice place to enjoy with friends. I'm glad we have this garden here and I will continue to enjoy for the next two years I have at East.

Sincerely,

Alex Krause

East High Sophomore and Candidate for Eagle Scout

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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Feb 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
May 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303-863-7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303-280-8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
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Dec 12 **Scheduler needed**

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

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Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750
Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

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The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

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Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#).

Denver Field Ornithologists 2012 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

- Contribution to 2013 research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- Contribution to the DFO Endowment Fund principal \$ _____

If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



HYENAS AND OTHER TAILS

A Trip to Kenya with Norm Erthal

Monday August 27, 7.30pm

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Lee Farrell

Monday September 24, 7.30pm



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

SEPTEMBER 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 9

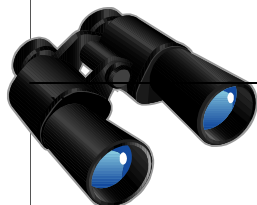
Digital Photography: Aid to Better Bird Watching with Lee Farrell Monday September 24

On the 2010 DFO member survey, one member noted that DFO has a number of excellent photographers and suggested that some of our programs feature those photographers. Our September 24th meeting will respond to that suggestion when member Lee Farrell talks about digital photography as an aid to better bird watching.

In addition to outstanding photos by this well-respected photographer, the program will encourage audience participation using the Turningpoint audience participation software.



Continued on page 3



September Field Trips

Sunday, September 2

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Paul Slingsby, (303)422-3728

Meet Leader at the Visitors' Center at 0700. Riparian species, raptors and migrating shorebirds are possible on this trip. Expect easy walking of at least a mile (or a few!).

A scope would be helpful. Plan for a half-day of birding with lunch in Brighton optional.

In the afternoon we may drive nearby county roads in search of migrating raptors.

September 8-9: Fall Bird Counts. Please refer to the schedule posted elsewhere in this newsletter.

Saturday, Sept. 22

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Dave Rhoades, (303)424-8633

Meet Leader at 0800 at the Arsenal Visitors' Center, 56th at Havana, and enjoy a guided birding tour of the Arsenal until 1pm. Lunch optional. Autumn migrants, waterfowl, raptors are likely. This is a space-limited trip, and pre-registration with the leader is required.

Continued on next page

September Field Trips, continued

Saturday, Sept. 22**Rocky Mountain National Park**

Leader: Chris Owens, (303)772-6048

This is a joint trip with our friends of the Boulder Bird Club. Meet at 0800 at the parking lot of the Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead, which is approx. 2.3 miles from the Beaver Meadows entrance station. You may want to arrive early as parking is rather limited. This trip will be mostly on foot through riparian areas. Trip will wrap up at 2pm. Bring lunch and all the usual protection for sun and variable weather.

Sunday, Sept. 23**Cherry Creek State Park**

Leader: Mary Keithler, (303)771-1421

Meet Leader at 0800 at the park Marina for a half day of birding. Lunch optional; bring a scope if you have one, and be the first to spot a new rarity!

Saturday, Sept. 29**Chatfield State Park**

Leader: Ed Holub, (303)979-2194

Meet Leader at 0730 the Swim Beach parking lot for a half day of birding. This vital habitat may soon be lost to us for generations; enjoy it now, and considering joining in the fight to save it. Look for late-migrating waterfowl and passerines. Lunch optional; a scope might be helpful.

Sunday, September 30**Eastern Plains Migrants**

Leader: Norm Erthal, (303)917-2596

Meet Leader at 0630 at the Division of Wildlife office, 60th and Broadway to form carpools and head out for a full day of birding on the eastern plains including Crow Valley. Bring a lunch, water and snacks, and be prepared to help pay for gas if you are a passenger. We'll be searching for late migrants of any stripe (or no stripes!). Please notify leader if you plan to participate.

2012 Fall Bird Count

Denver has conducted Fall Bird Counts for over 30 years. Denver Field Ornithologists and ASGD sponsor this tradition. No fees, but some sites require a state parks pass or pre-registration. Bring binoculars, scopes for the reservoir counts, field guide, and lunch. Everyone welcome to help – more eyes see more birds.

Thursday, September 6

Barr Lake periphery. This trip, mostly driving, does not involve much walking and will be good for people with limited mobility or stamina. Leader: Dick Anderson, 303-757-4582, Phone leader, or send email to him at rholmesanderson@earthlink.net. Meet at 0700 at Barr Lake Entrance Station.

Saturday, September 8**Chatfield State Park**

Leader, Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. Meet at 0630 at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. State Parks Pass required.

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Cheryl Teuton & Dan Brooks, 303-912-3341. Meet at 0700 at Marina, inside west gate near Cherry Creek High School. State Parks Pass required.

Waterton, downstream. 4-5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed. Leader: Hugh & Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723. Meet at 0630 at Audubon Nature Center (left turn immediately after turning onto Waterton/Roxborough road and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon).

Continued on page 4

Meeting presentation, continued



A serious amateur photographer, Lee has combined a love of birds with a passion for photography with a focus on capturing bird behavior.

He is a volunteer with the ColonyWatch and the Dinosaur Ridge HawkWatch, two citizen science projects of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

Monday August 27 Hyenas and Other Tails a trip to Kenya with Norm Erthal

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Lorraine Rigli 1923-2012

Many of you have enjoyed the birds of the eastern Colorado plains on the Rigli Ranch. Longtime DFO member and field trip leader, Joe Rigli, has asked us to print the following remembrance of his mother.

My mother, Lorraine M. Rigli, 89, passed away Monday July 23, 2012 at her home south of Fort Morgan. She was born February 12, 1923 in Arvada, CO to John and Anna Mattive and moved to Fort Morgan area from Brighton around 1945. Lorraine married Car J. Rigli on June 17, 1947 in Brighton, Colorado. She was an active member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Wiggins where she served on the Altar and Rosary Society.

Lorraine was a rancher and school teacher. For years, she rode her horse to work when she taught at the Shamrock, OK, and Adena schools. She also worked at the Baker School in Fort Morgan. Mrs. Rigli canned, loved to crochet, and was a Camp Fire Girls leader, member of the PTA, the Extension Homemakers/FCE, helped with Morgan County Fair and was a voting judge during election years. Survivors include her husband, Carl of Fort Morgan; two sons, Joe Rigli and his close friend, Eva Graham and her son, John of Fort Morgan and Jimmy Rigli and his wife, Linda of La-Salle, CO; one daughter, Julie Frink and her husband, Tom of Fort Morgan.

Funeral Mass was held July 30, 2012 at St Helena Catholic Church in Ft. Morgan and interment was at Memory Gardens.

Welcome New Members!

William Stebbins, PO Box 101120, Denver, CO 80250, 303.918.5600
Padmani Stone, 8555 Fairmount Dr. Apt F104, Denver, CO 80247

"Best Trip Leader" Characteristics Identified

Last month we closed our Best Trip Leader survey. The survey was the first step in strengthening the development of Denver Field Ornithologists trip leaders. Eleven people responded to the survey, including one member of the Angus and Dundee Bird Club in Scotland.

We asked three key questions:

1. Thinking of the DFO field trips you've participated in, who stands out as the best DFO trip leader?
2. Please describe this person's greatest strengths as a trip leader.
3. Thinking about field trips that have been less satisfying, what were the trip leader weaknesses that contributed to your dissatisfaction?

Four respondents listed Joey Kellner as one of DFO's best trip leaders. Others identified were Randy Lentz, Ed Holub, Robert Righter, Karleen Schofield, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Lynn Willcockson (two mentions), the late Bill Brockner, John Drummond, Chris Owens, David Rhoades, Mary Burger, and the Kingerys. Because our response rate was low, we probably missed some names that should be on the list.

Strengths of the best leaders include good skills at bird identification and spotting birds, patience helping participants find and identify birds, taking time to be sure everybody sees the bird, enthusiasm, knowledge of birds and habitats, organized, shows concern for everyone's safety and satisfaction, keeps a good trip list, and is inclusive with birders of all skill levels.

Weaknesses that diminish the trip experience include lack of attention to the human side of the trip, weak bird identification skills, not making sure that everybody has a chance to see the bird, a superior attitude, lack of patience with participant questions, driving too fast, not admitting lack of knowledge, disorganization, ignoring everything but birds, not keeping the group together, disorganization, indecision, and spending time only with the expert birders.

Respondents had a range of experience with DFO field trips, some with less than one year of participation and others with more than 12 years. Just under half were trip leaders themselves. Of those who have not become trip leaders, three felt they did not know birds well enough, one hadn't been asked, one didn't have time, and one did not know any good places for a field trip. Our next step will be a board retreat on October 1 when the board will be looking at ways to strengthen DFO's field trip program as well as other ways to better serve present and future members.

2012 Fall Count, continued from page 2

Lower Bear Creek & Marston Reservoir

Leader: Chuck Aid, 303-674-3331, caid@ecentral.com

Meet at 0630 at parking lot adjacent to the Conoco Station at the NE corner of Morrison Road and C470. We will bird Bear Creek Lake Park and the Bear Creek Greenbelt in the morning and Marston Reservoir in the afternoon.

Sunday September 9

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leader: Kirk Huffstater, 303-660-9298.

Meet at 0630 at the Homestead. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance; Homestead is first parking lot on the left. State Parks pass required.

Barr Lake State Park. This is a ten-mile (or equivalent), all-day hike around the lake

Leader: Dick Schottler. 303-278-8035. Call leader if you plan to go. Meet at 0630 at RMBO, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane. South off Bromley Lane; from I-76, first road east of railroad track. State Parks pass required.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Canceled due to 5-week well inspection that will close the Arsenal to visitors.

Leader: Urling Kingery, 303-641-8823.\.

DFO Birders in Action

This fall we are launching a couple of new initiatives on the DFO web site. We hope these will increase the flow to the site and add to its value in the Denver birding community. The first of these is our "Rogue's Gallery – Member Photos," already in place with some fine images of hummingbirds taken Ira Sanders. At this time we will be accepting your images and will post them as time and space on the web site allows. If you have some images that you would like to share with the DFO members and the public, please send them as an attachment to an email to the Webmaster rholmesanderson@earthlink.net.

Our second initiative will be the publishing of your commentary on birds and birding. If you have a favorite birding site that you would like to share with your friends at DFO or if you have some interesting stories about a bird or birds in your yard, in your work place or that you have seen in your travels about the metro area on one of the many field trips, please take some time to write it up and share it with us. An editorial group will review and if necessary edit your contribution for use on the web site. Stories and commentary should be sent to Richard Anderson (rholmesanderson@earthlink.net) who will work with the editors to get the material on the web page.

Both of these efforts should help us build up our places to visit and may bring to light places that you would not have thought of visiting. For example, I recently participated in a Denver Parks walk between Cook Park and Garland Park along Cherry Creek in Southeast Denver. We saw a good variety of birds including Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egrets, Belted Kingfishers and the usual collection of Rock Pigeons, Northern Flickers, Downy Woodpeckers, robins, Redwing Blackbirds, House Sparrows and finches. Though many of these are quite common, you may find something quite uncommon and worthy of sharing.

Let's make this a go for the coming year – only you can do it with your contributions.

On the afternoon of July 27 Richard Anderson (DFO Webmaster) met with Mara Fielding-Purdy of Denver Department of Parks and Recreation, Natural Areas Program at Denver's Garland Park to review an effort aimed at reducing the impact of avian botulism in Denver's park lakes. Lollipop Lake at Garland is one of the lakes where dead ducks have been found in the past – this site has since been clear of dead or sick waterfowl and needs continued monitoring to ensure the cycle is broken. Of particular concern are Ferrill Lake and Duck Lake in City Park which have more serious outbreaks and are the focus of parks and volunteer efforts. Smith, Grasmere Lakes and Lily pond at Washington Park are also of concern.

Duck Lake in City Park, though recently drained has experienced considerable impact from avian botulism. The week of July 23-27 about a dozen dead birds have been found on the island in Duck Lake beneath the Cormorant rookery and on the shores of both Duck and Ferrill lakes. Duck Lake in City Park has been a source of avian botulism for many years. The recent outbreak is made worse by the high temperatures for the past month or so.

Denver Parks staff are particularly concerned about the potential spread of the infection to other lakes in the park system. The major outbreak in 2011 included the finding of dead birds at Smith Lake in Washington Park. This year the deaths had been at Duck and Ferrill Lakes in City Park along with Lollipop Lake in Garland Park. However, Park officials are concerned about the infection spreading to other lakes, particularly those in Washington Park and where dead waterfowl were found the past two years.

Sick birds can be rehabilitated at a rehab center to reduce the loss of birds. Mara Fielding-Purdy and the park folks are asking for volunteers to survey the lakes in Washington Park and Garland Park on a regular (daily) basis. This surveillance is a simple matter – walk the perimeter of the lakes looking for sick or dead birds. The affected birds will most likely be water fowl. Should you locate a dead bird you should call 311 to report the bird, you can also contact park personnel or a park ranger at the Ranger Hotline: 303-331-4050.

Please join us in this effort to improve our parks and lakes and the enjoyment we get from visiting them. For more information, check out www.DFObirders.org.

Towheeblog, birding Oregon and California

For those of you without internet, below is a short summary of this remarkable series of photos from Harry Fuller's blog.

<http://atowhee.wordpress.com/2012/07/31/the-ospreys-good-neighbor/>

JULY 31: I have previously blogged about the Osprey nest at the southeast corner of Emigrant Lake, just off Old



Greensprings Road. Today there was drama at this Osprey nesting platform. This photo shows the two juvenile Osprey that are already flying about.

Two of the young Osprey have fledged and are free-flying birds, soaring about and perching in trees near their parents. This morn-

ing Jim Bronson noticed something amiss. He lives in a house just uphill from the Osprey nest platform, their closest and best neighbor it turns out. The third young Osprey was dangling from the nest, suspended by a thick thread of some kind. This is Jim Bronson's photo of the two adults helpless as their fledgling dangles from nest.

The bird was flapping hard at 630am. By 8am the bird was exhausted and still hanging upside down, caught and apparently doomed. The parent Osprey were perched nearby calling helplessly. But Jim took action.

Here's a chronology:

630am Jim notices dangling Osprey juvenile.

715 am Jim contacts Pacific Power which owns the power pole. They dispatch a workman and truck.



8am Dave of Pacific Power arrives, he lifts himself to the platform with his cherry-picker.

Dave cuts the twine holding Osprey to nest platform and then lowers the Osprey and its entanglement to the ground.

(For more of the story, connect through the link above.)

Thank you Harry for allowing us to reprint this nail biting event.

DFO Awards \$3300 in Grants in 2012!

In March DFO completed the process of reviewing grant applications and awarded \$3,300 in grants to four very exciting bird and birding related projects. DFO's Endowment Fund (formerly the Educational Endowment Fund) was created 18 years ago as a result of long-time DFO member Mary Hope Robinson's very generous \$15,000 gift to DFO. Over the years the Endowment Fund has awarded grants to the East High School Bird Club, Eagle and other Scouting projects, raptor rehabilitation, teacher training, ornithology camp scholarships for young people, avian research on Burrowing Owls and Mallard duck nest structures, and others.

2012 Project #1

DFO has awarded \$1000 to the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) to support their ongoing work studying the natural history of Black Swifts. Many DFO members have followed this work through RMBO and the Denver Post (March 3, 2012). Black Swift research was started in 1949 by Dr. Owen Albert Knorr of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. This work was later carried on by Rich Levad of RMBO and is now being spearheaded by RMBO's Jason Beason, Kim Potter and Carolyn Gunn. The Black Swift was THE LAST of 716 North American nesting bird species for which the wintering grounds were not known. Using geolocator "backpacks" this RMBO team was the first to discover that Colorado's Black Swifts migrate 4,300 miles to the lowlands of the Amazon Basin in western Brazil for the northern hemisphere's winter. Quite a surprise! This year's grant to RMBO is to fund ongoing genetics research on the Colorado population of Black Swifts. This work will create a baseline from which to make future comparisons with other North American Black Swift populations.

Jason Beason will report on this work at a future DFO membership meeting.

2012 Project #2

DFO has awarded \$1000 to Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy (Denver Public Schools) for the purchase of ten pairs of binoculars for use in their environmental studies field program. "The unique focus of our school is to integrate the arts into all curriculum areas. Science and art have a natural connection in use of materials and in the process of creative problem solving. We are located in Harvey Park...the park and the lake there are ideal locations for using our outdoor environment for both science and art. We also travel to Chatfield every year for a field trip. [We are] teaching students to become scientific observers and to create a foundation for appreciation of the natural world..." Some of these students will report on their studies at the October DFO membership meeting.

2012 Project #3

DFO has awarded \$300 to East High School (Denver Public Schools) for the East Angel Wildlife Garden. "Over the last seven years East High School has worked with the community and many organizations and foundations friendly to the environment and wildlife to promote the revival and renovation of the historic Angel Garden, located on the south lawn of East's majestic campus...a major feature of the Angel Garden is the wildlife habitat and feeding stations. The Angel Garden has earned official certification as a Wildlife Habitat from the National Wildlife Federation." This grant goes toward the purchase of feed, equipment, and maintenance of the wildlife garden, AND this is DFO's second grant (2007) to this worthy effort. We hope you read East High School student Alex Krause's wonderful article about the garden in the August 2012 *Lark Bunting*. With binoculars in hand, DFO members are encouraged to stop by East High School (southwest corner of building), just across from City Park, and enjoy the chickadees, jays, geese, and squirrels of the historic Angel Garden.

2012 Project #4

DFO has awarded \$1000 to RMBO to help fund a workshop "Educating Eastern Colorado Private Land Managers on Wildlife Habitat." RMBO along with the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service will hold the four day workshop at Pingree Park (CSU) in August enhancing land managers' skills and knowledge for working with private landowners on wildlife conservation issues. In the past RMBO has worked with landowners on the conservation of Mountain Plover, Lesser Prairie Chickens, and other imperiled bird species in Eastern Colorado.

In the future you will hear more about the successes of each of these projects through the Lark Bunting, at DFO meetings, or even on a DFO field trip. The DFO Endowment Fund Committee is composed of Carol Cochran, Newell Grant (DFO Board Secretary), and Chris Blakeslee. To find out more about how the DFO Endowment Fund works, visit the DFO website <http://www.dfobirders.org/>.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists](#) Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2012 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

• Contribution to 2013 research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____

If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



HYENAS AND OTHER TAILS

A Trip to Kenya with Norm Erthal

Monday August 27, 7.30pm

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Lee Farrell

Monday September 24, 7.30pm



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

OCTOBER 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 10



Yellow Mud Turtle
Photo by Joey Kellner

Other Creatures Seen While Birding

Monday October 22, 7.30pm
(at the Planetarium, not Ricketson)

Every birder has had that trip when the birds just didn't cooperate and the most exciting find on the trip was a Gopher Snake imitating a rattlesnake or a Fence Lizard doing pushups on a rock.

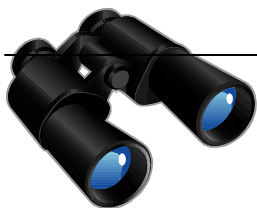
DFO Past President Joey Kellner will offer insights on "Other Creatures Seen While Birding." He'll be joined by Glenn Walbek and Norm Erthal.

Whether it's butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles or amphibians Colorado birders see many "non birds" as we engage in our hobby. Come see and learn more about some of the "other creatures" we encounter while birding in the northeastern "quadrant" of Colorado. The three presenters will talk about the common (and uncommon) "critters" typically seen in our part of the state, and they promise to entertain us with LOTS of pictures!



Northern Crescent Butterfly
Photo by Glenn Walbek

Continued on page 3



October Field Trips

Saturday, October 6

Lair O' the Bear

Leader: Niña Routh 303.987.8687. Meeting place: Meet leader at 8:00am at the Lair O' the Bear Park. From Morrison drive 4 miles west on C-74 to park entrance on left. (Be forewarned and observe the speed limits.) We'll be looking to see who is left from the Lair nursery and for any fall migrants including the usual foothills suspects. This is a half day trip. Bring snacks, water, binos, and good walking shoes for an approximately 2.5 to 3 mile hike. Dress in the usual layers for a fall day. Feeder monitoring will follow the trip at the Bear Creek Restaurant.
RSVP: Please phone leader to register. This trip is limited in number of participants so reservations are a must.

Sunday, October 7

Fort Collins Area Ponds

Leader: Paul Slingsby 303.422.3728. Please notify the leader by phone or email: (paslingsby@comcast.net). Meet to carpool from the large parking lot south of 120th and just east of Huron at

Continued on next page

October Field Trips, continued

7:30am. This can be accessed via I-25 exit 223, go west on 120th Avenue to Huron and south until you see the parking lot on the left. We'll be parked close to Huron. The trip will return to the carpool meeting area by 4pm. Bring water and a sack lunch and plan for variable weather. If it is cold we will have lunch at a supermarket deli table area (you could purchase a lunch, or not). Telescopes and 2-way radios will be useful - we'll share with those who don't have them. Plan on one or two walks of a mile or so. We'll focus on waterfowl and raptors.

Saturday, October 13 Central South Platte River

Leader: Jackie King 720.381.3314. Meet leader at 0800 at Parking Lot Walnut at 4th and Walnut St on the Auraria Campus. Will walk along the greenbelt and see what birds are living in the heart of downtown Denver. Bring drinking water and snacks for a half day trip. Leader uses a scooter for mobility so the trip will be accessible. Parking costs \$2 for all day. From I-25 take Speer Blvd. South to Auraria Parkway then turn right to 7th St. At 7th St. turn left one block to Walnut. Turn right on Walnut and continue to 4th and you will see the parking lot on the South side of the street. Please call leader if going. Meeting place is very near to the Light Rail Station close to Elitch Gardens.



Sunday, October 14 The Big Sit

Leader: Joey Kellner 303.978.1748 (Parks Pass required). Meeting place: Heron Overlook, Chatfield State Park. From Wadsworth Blvd. Entrance, go right at the T and continue around the reservoir. After you cross the South Platte River make a hard left into the large parking lot labeled Heronry Overlook. At the far right corner, a trail leads down to the Heron Overlook. The Big Sit, an international birding event, has exacting, loose, and frivolous standards. Big Sitters count all the birds they see or hear from within a circle with a 17-foot diameter. Count Sitters may send out scouts and beaters to find other birds and identify them as long as a Sitter sees the bird from within the circle. All around the world, on this date, people will Big Sit!

Come and join Joey Kellner and other recruits any time after dawn. Stay for an hour, all morning, or all day. Drop by whenever you like or volunteer to substitute for Big Sit leaders for an hour or two. (Pre-registration not required.) Joey maintains an hourly chart of the birds that Sitters see from the circle. In the past few years he has tallied 55-65 species. Bring chairs, breakfast, lunch, dinner, picnics, coffee, etc. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, and other essential birding equipment.

Saturday, October 20th Jackson and Prewitt Reservoirs

Leader: Chris Owens, 303.772.6048. christiel@q.com Meet leader at 7:00 am at the Park-N-Ride on the southwest corner of Highway 287 and Niwot Road. This is approximately 1 mile north of the intersection of Highways 287 and 52. Participants need an Annual SWA Permit per person and a State Parks Pass. This will be a full day trip so be sure to bring lunch, snacks, water, good walking shoes, and appropriate clothing for what weather is forecast. We will look for water fowl, late migrants

Sunday, October 21 Barr Lake SP-North Side

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark, 303-604-0531. Meet leader at parking lot at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane at 8am (Note: This is not the usual Barr Lake SP meeting place.) From the Bromley Lane/E 152nd Ave. exit of I-76, drive east on E 152nd Ave. across the railroad tracks and take an immediate right onto Lark Bunting Lane. Park pass or admission fee required. We'll bird the area around RMBO's headquarters and the fields and ditches below the Barr Lake dam. We'll look for late migrants and early winter arrivals. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars. Scopes optional. Half day trip. Call or email leader if you plan to attend. chundertmark8@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 27 Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Dave Rhoades, (303)424-8633 such as warblers, shorebirds, and hawks, and any arrivals from the high country. Please contact leader if you are planning on attending. Meet Leader at 0800 at the Arsenal Visitors' Center, 64th and Quebec, and enjoy a guided birding tour of the Arsenal until 1pm. Lunch optional. Late autumn migrants,

Continued on next page

Meeting presentations, continued

Learning about Colorado Birds

Monday November 26

Each year more than 100 volunteers from around Colorado assist the biologists of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) with their challenge of monitoring Colorado birds through several Citizen Science programs. The oldest of these is Bald Eagle Watch. Bald Eagle Watch Coordinator Cindi Kelly will kick off the two part DFO program on November 26, with a presentation on the evolution of this program that monitors Bald Eagle nests in northeastern Colorado.

Cindi will take us through the beginnings of Bald Eagle Watch 1988 when a handful of volunteers monitored the first Bald Eagle nest on the Front Range following the recovery from the DDT induced population collapse during the 1960s. Volunteers now monitor between 20 and 30 nests of this iconic bird often dubbed the American Eagle.

While Bald Eagle Watch is the oldest of RMBO's Citizen Science programs is Bald Eagle Watch, Colony Watch covers the largest area of the state. In the second part of the November program, RMBO Special Monitoring Project Coordinator Jason Beason will introduce us to this project that monitors 15 species of water birds that nest in colonies. The species monitored include grebes, pelicans, cormorants, ibises, herons, egrets, night herons, gulls and terns. DFO President Chuck Hundertmark will moderate the program.

Digital Photography: Aid to Better Bird Watching with Lee Farrell

Monday September 24

A serious amateur photographer, Lee Farrell has combined a love of birds with a passion for photography with a focus on capturing bird behavior. In addition to outstanding photos by this well-respected photographer, the program will encourage audience participation using the Turningpoint audience participation software. He is a volunteer with the Colony-Watch and the Dinosaur Ridge HawkWatch.

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October Field Trips, continued

waterfowl, raptors are likely. This is a space-limited trip, and pre-registration with the leader is required. Please call Dave at (303)424-8633.

Sunday, October 28

Walden and Sawhill Ponds

Leader: Paula Hansley Hm. 720-890-2628 Cell 303-263-1714. Meet leader at 8:00am at Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at Walden Ponds on 75th St. in Boulder County. Bird until about 11:00. Walden is accessed from a short road, which goes west from 75th Street 0.9 mi. north of Valmont Rd. The group will look on the ponds and in the woods for ducks and late migrants in both Walden and Sawhill areas. We will also look for Dippers and other birds along Boulder Creek near 75th St. Bring a scope if you have one, along with snacks, water, and appropriate clothing. REMEMBER THAT WE CHANGE FROM DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TO STANDARD TIME EARLY THAT MORNING!

Scheduled by Christie Owens [christiel@q.com]

Recovering from a Financial Loss

Chuck Hundertmark , DFO President

During July and August of this year, the Denver Field Ornithologists' (DFO) Board of Directors received bad news about some of our funds. Bridge Premium Finance LLC, where some DFO funds were invested, was being investigated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for operating a Ponzi scheme. On August 14, 2012, the SEC filed a case against Bridge and its principals, Michael J. Turnock and William P. Sullivan II. DFO's operating funds of about \$25,000 are currently in an FDIC insured bank account, and our ordinary operations are not threatened. However, our Endowment Fund of about \$25,000 and reserve of \$6,000 are very likely lost.

The DFO Board is working to put better financial controls in place to prevent this kind of loss in the future, and I will be communicating progress on those controls to you in the future. At the August 27 DFO meeting, I outlined the history leading up to this loss and the steps the Board was taking. I was encouraged by the response of members, many of whom immediately began thinking of how we can rebuild the endowment.

Here is a brief history of how we got into this discouraging situation and how we will recover.

In February 2010, DFO had a certificate of deposit for \$6,000 maturing. Because the interest rate to renew this deposit would be very low, my predecessor mentioned to the DFO board a personal investment he had with Bridge Premium Finance that was offering a better rate of return. Bridge purported to be using funds from investors to make loans to corporations to allow them to spread out payments on their insurance premiums.

DFO moved \$6,000 to Bridge in February 2010. In February 2011, DFO invested its \$28,000 endowment fund with Bridge. During spring of 2012, DFO withdrew \$4,000 from the endowment fund to support education and science grants.

On Friday, July 20, 2012, DFO Vice President Robert Shade received a call from an SEC investigator indicating that the SEC was investigating Bridge. Bob immediately notified me, and after talking with the other DFO officers, on Monday, July 23, I asked Treasurer Mary Geder to attempt to withdraw our funds from Bridge. Michael Turnock told Mary that because of the SEC investigation, our funds could not be returned at the time.

The board began exploring options to recover our funds. I spoke with the SEC investigator, and we sought an attorney who could advise and assist us. While some attorneys outlined possible courses of action, the costs for legal assistance were too high in proportion to the chances of recovery. In August, DFO Secretary Newell Grant spoke with Kim Morss, an attorney neighbor and DFO member, who was willing to advise us on a pro bono basis. However, on August 14, 2012, the SEC filed its case against Bridge, Turnock and Sullivan and froze the assets of the company.

According to the SEC news release, Bridge owes \$6.2 million to 120 or more investors and has assets of less than \$500,000. According to the SEC, "... since at least 2002, Bridge Premium has paid investor returns with funds from other investors because Bridge Premium's business has been unprofitable and its obligations to noteholders have far exceeded its total assets."

Based on conversations with the SEC and information on the SEC web site, my understanding is that the SEC will attempt to recover assets from Bridge and if sufficient funds are recovered, will distribute funds to investors on a pro rata basis. However, recovered funds must support the cost of the distribution. Consequently, the best we can hope for at this point is recovery of a small portion of our investment.

Continued on next page

Recovering from a Financial Loss, continued

The Board will continue to monitor the SEC case with the help of Kim Morss. In the meantime, we will be taking the following steps:

- ◆ Appointing a Fact Finding Committee chaired by Bill Wuerthele, one of our new board members, and including DFO members who are not on the board to investigate how we got into this situation
- ◆ Appointing a Stewardship Committee chaired by Treasurer Mary Geder to recommend an investment policy and other measures to prevent a similar occurrence
- ◆ Exploring ways to rebuild the Endowment Fund after strong financial controls are in place
- ◆ Maintaining our primary focus on DFO's mission of promoting the study of birds.

For additional information on the case against Bridge, you can check these online SEC news releases.

<http://sec.gov/litigation/litreleases/2012/lr22449.htm>

<http://sec.gov/news/press/2012/2012-156.htm>

I regret that I must report this distressing news to DFO members, particularly those who have supported the Endowment Fund. I have been gratified, however, by the urgency of the board's attention to this crisis and with the resilience and support of DFO members.

The Future of Bird Safe Architecture is Clear...

The *Lark Bunting* has published many articles on the bird mortality and glass. Although this brief article is from a commercial company, we were sure that you would like to know that some science is at work in our field!



Researchers estimate that up to one billion birds are killed each year in North America due to collisions with glass on buildings, making bird window strikes the second greatest threat to avian mortality next to habitat destruction. It is the reflective and transparent characteristics of glass that create a dangerous situation for birds. They see sky and landscape reflected by or on the other side of a window; the glass is not perceived as a barrier. To prevent these collisions, glass must be made visible to birds.

With the understanding that birds are able to see light in the ultraviolet spectrum, ARNOLD GLAS has developed ORNILUX Bird Protection Glass. The glass has a patterned, UV reflective coating making it visible to birds while remaining virtually transparent to the human eye. ORNILUX has been tested in cooperation with the American Bird Conservancy and the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Germany, resulting in a significant reduction of bird strikes compared to standard double-glazing.

As a multi-functional glass, ORNILUX is the only clear glass solution to bird collisions, and is available as laminated glass or a double-glazed insulated unit with a low-E or solar control coating, offering energy efficiency and bird strike protection.

ORNILUX offers a unique and innovative bird-friendly glazing solution—maintaining the aesthetic transparency of glass while creating visual markers alerting birds to a barrier. First introduced in Europe in 2006, ORNILUX is now available in North America.



For more information, go to <http://www.ornilux.com/>

Moving DFO Forward

The DFO Board of Directors has scheduled an October 1 retreat to explore ways to improve the way we meet the needs of our members. In particular, the board will explore ways to make our communications to members more lively, strengthen the field trip program and structure the board to accomplish more.

The October 1 strategy session will build on work already completed or in progress. During the 2011-2012 term, the board passed new bylaws. Among other changes, the bylaws now require a financial review or audit whenever there is a change of treasurer. This provision will strengthen DFO's financial controls.

To augment the bylaws, the board is now working on a set of position descriptions to spell out the responsibilities of each of the officers and directors. The board has also begun developing a policy manual. This manual will make many of DFO's informal practices more explicit. It will also establish policies to guide the future stability and growth of the organization. We anticipate that recommendations of the Stewardship Committee to strengthen financial controls will be formalized in this manual.

During the discussions about revision of the bylaws, Director Kayleen Niyo shared her experience with the board of the Evergreen Audubon Society. That group assigned specific responsibilities to directors (e.g. Director of Education, Director of Bird Monitoring, Director of Communication, etc.). This structure provided clearer division of responsibilities among board members. At the July 19, 2012, meeting of the DFO board, I suggested that DFO adopt a similar approach.

While DFO would have some different needs than Evergreen Audubon, the organization would better serve its members if we gave more attention to field trips and communication. In addition, there has been an interest in doing more with bird education.

Veronica Holt does an excellent job getting the Lark Bunting published on time and Dick Anderson has greatly improved the appearance of the DFO web site. Both communication channels, however, need more quality content stories and photos that will inform and delight our members. Will Burt and Dick Anderson have volunteered to work on this challenge, but they'll need help.

DFO's field trip program also needs more attention. Recruiting and supporting schedulers is an ongoing challenge. To sustain the number of field trips DFO offers we need to continually develop new leaders and offer support to help these leaders provide a quality experience to trip participants. Trip reports must be entered in eBird in a timely way. And, the data gathered on DFO trips presents opportunities for analysis to provide insights on Colorado bird populations.

At the October 1 retreat, the board will look at these issues and develop a strategic plan to better administer our communications, field trips, and education. The outcome should be a new path forward for DFO.

Chuck Hundertmark, President

So Sayeth the Speaker...

Norm Erthal, a past president of DFO, treated the membership at its opening fall meeting on 27 August 2012 to a presentation of hundreds of stunning photos from a 2008 birding trip to Kenya. Several DFO members in the audience had journeyed to Kenya with Norm.

Equatorial Kenya boasts more than 1,100 bird species in a wide range of habitats. Continual taxonomic changes cause difficulty in keeping track of the taxonomy. Amazingly for having such a large number of bird species, Kenya has only seven endemics. Norm said they observed five, including two of the world's rarest birds. They were able to tally 602 total bird species in their 23-day trip.

They visited Kenya from 10 October to 2 November 2008. The rainy season in parts of Kenya begins in November and lasts into March, but they only had a few partially rainy days. The highest temperatures were in the low 90s. Walking was usually quite easy; there were just a few slick trails during the rainy days. They encountered few insects, and no mosquitoes. Their two excellent Kenyan guides pointed out a few Tsetse flies.

Generally they saw quite a few African mammals along with the birds. On one of the trip sections, they split up into a bird group and a mammal group. The latter group was fortunate to be able to see leopard and cheetah, as well as many other mammals.

They traveled to many sections of Kenya from Lake Victoria in the west to Mombasa on the Indian Ocean. They first went from Nairobi to the **Kenya Water Park** just outside of Nairobi and then to **Mt Kenya** where they stayed at the Castle Forest Lodge. Part of the mountain contains a tea plantation; tea is a major Kenyan export product. As through much of Africa, a large number of weaver species were identified. Norm also showed photos of various kingfishers, flycatchers, Hadada Ibis, and sunbird.

They visited **Samburu National Reserve** where they saw barbets, a Lesser Spotted Eagle, dwarf mongoose, impala, Pearl-spotted Owlet, many baboons, Eurasian Hoopoe (which we also saw on Norm's 2005 trip to Spain), Thompson's Gazelle, brightly colored starlings, Kirk's Dik Dik, Grevey's zebra, White-bellied Bustard. The visiting birders were privileged to dance with the people of the Waa tribe.

Lake Nakuru National Park, home of the infamous pink flamingos, didn't disappoint. They also were treated to eland, Saddle-billed Stork, Red-capped Lark, Marabou Stork, Long-crested Eagle, White-crowned Shrike, Gray-headed Woodpecker, Pied Kingfisher, African Fish Eagle, the striking, large-eyed Senegal Thick-knee, as well as Eurasian Bee-eater.

On the way through the **Rift Valley to Lake Victoria**, the group was treated to the Uganda red-tailed monkey, blue monkey, many weaver species, Lesser Jacana, Black-headed Gonolek, Great Blue Turaco, hornbills, egrets, and plovers.

In the **Masai Mara**, the mammal group saw leopard and cheetah, wart hog, lion, topi, gnu, elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, serval, jackal, hyena, zebra, hartebeest, and various antelope species. Also seen were Secretary-Bird, lots of lark species, ubiquitous vulture species, Helmeted Guinea Fowl, and the Gray-crowned Crane (the national bird of Uganda).

They visited **Lake Naivasha**, the second largest fresh water lake in Kenya located in the Rift Valley. It is the land of acacia trees. They saw Great White Pelican, Great-billed Heron, white rhinos, hippos, Giant Kingfisher, and the Gray-hooded Gull.

In **Nairobi National Park**, they found many ostriches, and were surprised to learn that one pair will take over the care of many young ostriches. Norm showed photos of a pair caring for 17 gangly young! They observed Yellow-necked Francolin, Kori Bustard, Eastern Pale Chanting-Goshawk, and Spotted Thick-knee. They also ate lunch with baboons! They stopped at picnic tables near a sign that said "Beware of the baboons," but since they didn't see any baboons, they sat down to eat. They were soon inundated with baboons stealing their lunches! The baboons won, and hopefully no one was injured since baboons are renowned for their sharp canine teeth and aggressiveness.

Views of Mt Kilimanjaro were enjoyed from **Amboseli National Park**. They saw many elephants and lions, a Blacksmith Plover, Pygmy Falcon, hornbills including Silvery-cheeked, Martial Eagle, Double-banded Courser, White-bellied Canary, and Gabon Nightjar.

Near **Mombasa**, the statuesque baobab trees, Sokobe Scops Owl, Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike, and the stunning Southern Carmine Bee-eater were seen.

Thanks to Norm for providing a treat of colorful birds and amazing wildlife to DFO members and guests. He has led 14 foreign trips and has more planned, including a trip to Venezuela early in 2013.

Kay Niyo, Director

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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Jan 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
Feb 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
May 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303-863-7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303-280-8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Dec 12 **Scheduler needed**

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21, Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532, veronicaholt43@comcast.net.

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt, New Email: veronicaholt43@comcast.net

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

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Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds,

Denver Field Ornithologists 2013 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

• Contribution to 2013 research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____

If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Digital Photography

Lee Farrell

Monday September 24, 7.30pm

Other Creatures Seen While Birding

Joey Kellner, Glenn Walbek, Norm Erthal

Monday October 22, 7.30pm



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

NOVEMBER 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 11



Bald Eagle Family
Photo by Chuck Hundertmark

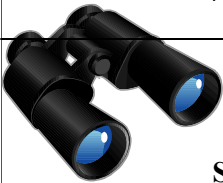
Learning about Colorado Birds Monday November 26, 7:30pm

Since 1988, volunteers with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Bald Eagle Watch have been monitoring the recovery of the Bald Eagle breeding population in northeastern Colorado. The recovery began with a single nest at Barr Lake State Park. Bald Eagle Watch is one of several Citizen Science programs sponsored by the observatory.

More than 100 volunteers from around Colorado assist the biologists of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) with their challenge of monitoring Colorado birds through these programs. Bald Eagle Watch is the oldest of these programs. Bald Eagle Watch Coordinator Cindi Kelly will kick off the two part DFO program on November 26, with a presentation on the evolution of this program that monitors Bald Eagle nests in northeastern Colorado.

Cindi will take us through the beginnings of Bald Eagle Watch 1988 when a handful of volunteers monitored the first Bald Eagle nest on the Front Range following the recovery from the DDT-induced population collapse during the 1960s.

Continued on page 3



November Field Trips

Saturday, November 3 Scoter Trip

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. This is an all day trip driving to various mountain lakes to look for scoters, loons and other migrants so bring lunch. Trip will probably include stops at Dillon Reservoir, Turquoise Lake, Spinney Mountain Reservoir, Twin Lakes and Eleven-Mile Reservoir. Call leader to register and arrange a meeting place.

Sunday, November 4

Evans and the South Platte River

Leaders: Barbara Shissler 303-589-4431 and Cindy Valentine 303-790-2805. Meet leaders at the parking lot at 0900. Take Santa Fe to Evans then go west on Evans towards the South Platte. Go across the bridge then turn on the road and park on the east side of the river. Group will walk along the river until Mississippi or a little further looking at the waterfowl that are gathered. Be aware that bathroom facilities are not very plentiful!

Saturday, November 10

Castlewood Canyon State Park and Kingery's bird feeders

Leaders: Hugh and Urling Kingery, 303-641-8823. Meet leaders at 0800 at Colo. 86 & Castlewood Canyon Road

Continued on next page

November Field Trips, continued

(Douglas Co. road 51). The group may bird in the Park, the local gravel pits and other local places depending on bird activity. The walking portion will involve a two mile walk or so, depending on the birds and the group. Bring lunch and your state parks pass. Group will eat lunch while watching the feeders at the Kingery's. This trip is especially good for the novice birder and new members.

Sunday, November 11 Longmont Area

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048. Meet leader at 0800 at Jim Hamm Park. From I-25 take Exit 240. To reach the park, go west four miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld County Line Road, then north two miles to Jim Hamm Park at 17th Ave. This will be a three-quarter day trip ending about 2 pm so bring lunch and extra water. Be sure to dress for Colorado weather.

Saturday, November 17 Roxborough State Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor's Center for a three and a half-hour walking tour on an easy trail. Participants should see golden eagles and species common in the foothills. State Parks Pass required. Lunch will be optional but there is a beautiful place to sit on the patio and watch the birds as you eat lunch. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). This is an excellent trip for novice birders and new members.

Sunday, November 18 Denver City Park

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark, 303-604-0531. Meet leader at parking strip southwest of 22nd Ave just north of Ferril Lake. From Colorado Blvd, turn west onto 22nd Ave. and go past the Museum of Nature and Science. Turn left just before the zoo at the sign to the Pavilion Bandstand. Park on the left at the end of the parking area closest to Ferril Lake. We'll check Ferril Lake and Duck Lake for early winter water birds. We'll also check trees to see what empty nests we can spot. If time allows, we may visit one or more other city parks. An easy morning walking. Bring water, snacks, two-way radios, binoculars and scopes optional. Half day trip. Limit of 10 participants. Call or email leader if you plan to attend. chundertmark8@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 24 Rigli Ranch

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-867-5210. Meet leader at ranch by 0830. From Hudson, go east on CO 52 until it turns north. Don't turn north, but continue east on Morgan County road F to CR 14, then turn north for approximately one mile to first house on left by boxcars. Bring lunch and extra water. Joe reports that wild turkeys have been seen at the ranch and he will be looking for the elusive creatures that escaped Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 25th RMBO Annual Barrow's Goldeneye Count, Silverthorn and Grand Lake Areas

Leader: Paul Slingsby [303-422-3728](tel:3034223728). Meet the leader at the Stegosaurus lot to carpool at 0800m. From I-70 west exit 259 (the Morrison exit), head south a very short distance on CH26 and turn left (east) into the parking lot (look for the Stegosaurus sign). This is the same lot as used by Hawkwatch. We will meet at the south end of the lot, spaces permitting, near the driveway. We will count Barrow's Goldeneyes at the Silverthorne water treatment plant and then drive to Lake Granby where will count from the south shore, from 2 roads at the south end of Shadow Mountain Lake and from the west end of Grand Lake. Spotting scopes, binoculars and 2 way radios will be very useful. Please carefully study male, female and first year Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes before the trip. This will be a good day to observe and practice identifying the different forms. We'll also see other interesting ducks, making for a very interesting and unusual winter birding day. **Registration with the leader is required.** Dress for very cold and windy weather even if the forecast is for a comfortable day. This includes insulated, wind proof leg coverings and insulated boots. Bring a lunch and hot thermos but we may find a warm place to buy a lunch if our schedule allows. We will try to be back at the Stegosaurus lot by dark. This will be a half-day trip, lunch optional.

Scheduled by Jackie King

Meeting presentations, continued

Volunteers now monitor between 20 and 30 nests of this iconic bird often dubbed the American Eagle. While Bald Eagle Watch is the oldest of RMBO's Citizen Science programs is Bald Eagle Watch, Colony Watch covers the largest area of the state. In the second part of the November program, RMBO Special Monitoring Project

Coordinator Jason Beason will introduce us to this project that monitors 15 species of water birds that nest in colonies. The species monitored include grebes, pelicans, cormorants, ibis, herons, egrets, night herons, gulls and terns. DFO President Chuck Hundertmark, who is also RMBO's Citizen Science Committee Chair, will moderate the program.



Black-crowned Night Heron
Photo by Chuck Hundertmark



Northern Crescent Butterfly
Photo by Glenn Walbek

Other Creatures Seen While Birding

Monday October 22, 7.30pm (at the Planetarium, not Ricketson)

Every birder has had that trip when the birds just didn't cooperate and the most exciting find on the trip was a Gopher Snake imitating a rattlesnake or a Fence Lizard doing pushups on a rock.

DFO Past President Joey Kellner will offer insights on "Other Creatures Seen While Birding." He'll be joined by Glenn Walbek and Norm Erthal.

Whether it's butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles or amphibians Colorado birders see many "non birds" as we engage in our hobby. Come see and learn more about some of the "other creatures" we encounter while birding in the northeastern "quadrant" of Colorado. The three presenters will talk about the common (and uncommon) "critters" typically seen in our part of the state, and they promise to entertain us with LOTS of pictures!

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Welcome New Members

Ray Harrison and Sharon Kestrel, 4520 Xavier St, Denver, CO 80212, 303.458.7998
Pat Heller, 3936 Dale Dr. Lafayette, CO 80026, 303.819.6745
Kitty LeDonne, 391 Eastern Ave, Brighton, CO 80601, 720.685.7833
Ashley Thompson, 1050 Cherokee St Apt 401, Denver, CO 80204-4053, 714.655.9687
Virginia Torrey, 8164 E Phillips Circ, Centennial, Co 80112-3253, 303.210.3000

And Welcome Back former members: Jean Bogar, PO Box 36202, Denver, CO 80226, 303.917.0950
Gordon Hodgson, 8312 Grove St, Westminster, CO 80031, 303.815.9164

Thank you Pat Heller, Virginia Torrey, and Robert Righter for your donation to the Research and Education Fund.

DFO Board Focuses on Communication and Field Trips

At a retreat at Cherokee Ranch October 1, the DFO voted to establish two new positions, a communication director and a field trip director. The new positions were created to assure more formal attention to field trips and to communication with members and prospective members.

The also elected Kayleen Niyo to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Newell Grant as secretary and director. Newell was a valuable contributor to discussion during his tenure as secretary. He tendered his resignation in September to devote more time to other obligations. Kayleen joined the as a director in 2011.

The retreat was facilitated by Meredith McBurney who joined the as a director this year. After asking what members wanted to get out of birding and out of the retreat, she guided us through a discussion of DFO purpose as set out in our bylaws:

- ◇ The Corporation is established to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats and to support local and national movements for bird and habitat protection and shall conform to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Much of the discussion centered on what DFO currently does to promote the study and preservation of birds, and what more could be done. Directors asked whether promotion implied reaching only members or if there was a need for outreach to nonmembers as well. This conversation led to the issue of communication. Currently the *Lark Bunting* and the DFO web site are the major channels of communication. Although, some trips and programs are publicized to

Continued on next page

Scotts Miracle-Gro To Pay \$12.5 Million for Violations of Federal Pesticide Laws

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, a producer of pesticides for commercial and consumer lawn and garden uses, was sentenced on September 7, 2012 in federal district court in Columbus, Ohio, to pay a \$4 million fine and perform community service for 11 criminal violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which governs the manufacture, distribution, and sale of pesticides. Scotts pleaded guilty in February 2012 to illegally applying insecticides to its wild bird food products that are toxic to birds, falsifying pesticide registration documents, distributing pesticides with misleading and unapproved labels, and distributing unregistered pesticides. This is the largest criminal penalty under FIFRA to date.

In addition to the \$4 million criminal fine, Scotts will contribute \$500,000 to organizations that protect bird habitat, including \$100,000 each to the Ohio Audubon's Important Bird Area Program, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Urban Forestry Program, the Columbus Metro-Parks Bird Habitat Enhancement Program, the Cornell University Ornithology Laboratory, and The Nature Conservancy of Ohio to support the protection of bird populations and habitats through conservation, research, and education.

In a separate civil agreement with the EPA, Scotts agreed to pay more than \$6 million in penalties and spend \$2 million on environmental projects to resolve additional civil pesticide violations. The violations include distributing or selling unregistered, canceled, or misbranded pesticides, including products with inadequate warnings or cautions. This is the largest civil settlement under FIFRA to date.

For more information, see <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/38045218faa33abe85257a72006bef1c!OpenDocument>.

These EPA decisions reinforce the need for those of us who feed birds to do so in a responsible manner. Inquire of your local bird seed store the source and safety of their bird seed.

Kay Niyo

Living Dinosaurs



The Evolution of Birds Lecture Series

Follow the evolutionary history of our fine feathered friends, one of the most fascinating lineages of animals. Four avian experts will guide you through the early origins of birds, their spectacular diversification, and today's issues of extinction and conservation. This series will leave you with a new appreciation for the modern dinosaurs at your backyard feeder.

Supported in part by the Society for the Study of Evolution and presented in partnership with the Rocky

Mountain Bird Observatory and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Wednesday, October 24: Early Origins

Julia Clarke, associate professor and John A. Wilson Fellow in vertebrate paleontology, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin

Tuesday, October 30: The Diversification of Modern Birds

Shannon J. Hackett, associate curator and head, Division of Birds, Zoology Department, Field Museum of Natural History

Tuesday, November 13: Speciation and Hybridization

Robb T. Brumfield, associate curator of genetic resources and associate professor of biology, Museum of Natural Science and Department of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University

Wednesday, November 28: Modern Extinction and Conservation

John Fitzpatrick, director, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University

Each lecture: 7pm at the Ricketson Auditorium • \$8 Museum or RMBO member, \$10 nonmember.

Reservations recommended. Please visit www.dmns.org or call 303-370-6000.



DFO Board Retreat, *continued from previous page*

external audiences as well, there is a need for more regular promotion of these activities to prospective new birders.

The new communication director will be responsible for actively soliciting interesting stories about birds and birding along with exciting photos and graphics. The director will also explore ways to reach out to nonmembers to interest them in our field trips and programs. The director will also explore ways to use social media like Twitter and Facebook. Will Burt agree to take on the director role on an interim basis to begin assessing which communication roles are being filled and which roles need help from new volunteers.

The field trip director will oversee all aspects of the field trip program including recruiting schedulers, recruiting and training new trip leaders, developing the leader training program, reporting of trip data, and compiling and analyzing historic data. The director will also explore ways to assure that signed trip waivers are being submitted for all field trips and that trip reports are entered in a timely way. The will be looking for a director to fill the overall coordination role. Lynn Willcockson will take responsibility for compiling and analyzing historic data.

Director Ira Sanders reported on a meeting he had with an attorney who works with nonprofit organizations on risk management. Ira negotiated a reduced rate for development of a liability waiver for DFO, and the authorized him to pay up to \$1,000 for development of a credible trip waiver. DFO currently has a minimal trip waiver which does not meet current legal standards for informing trip participants of risks and acknowledging assumption of responsibility by the participant.

Chuck Hundertmark, DFL President

So Sayeth the Speaker...

Lee Farrell provided an excellent program entitled “Digital Photography: Aid to Better Bird Watching” featuring his beautiful photos at the 24 September 2012 DFO meeting. He also elicited interesting results from audience-participation polls using TurningPoint® software. His emphasis on bird behavior provided insights into a fascinating world.

Lee suggested four important uses for bird photography: identification, documentation, observation, and science. Introductory examples of each included an identification photo of a Rough-legged Hawk; a documentation photo of a Peregrine Falcon; a “pretty picture” photo of a female Red-winged Blackbird; and a science learning photo of an Eared Grebe feeding a chick on the back of a parent. He then polled the audience on questions such as “average number of times you get out to bird.” Of 52 voters, 35% said 5–10 times per month.

Identification examples of bird photography were varied. In Lee’s initial attempts at tallying juvenile American White Pelicans during the North Park Colony Nesting Count, he asked experts to help identify one of his older pelican photos. It was a Brown Pelican taken at Chatfield SP, which he then submitted to the Colorado Bird Records Committee! Vacationing in Grand Teton NP, he photographed numerous odd looking birds on the backs of bison. The National Park personnel didn’t recognize them and referred him to the park ornithologist, who identified them as immature European Starlings!

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Lee showed the head of an American Kestrel with a red topknot and the rest of the body blocked out. A poll of 50% of 42 incorrectly voted it a male. Showing the rest of the photo confirmed it was an unusual female kestrel with a red topknot!

Photography serves an important role in **Documentation** of bird species; Lee documented a juvenile Goshawk. Of 48 voters, 33% said they do not keep a life list and 29% keep a detailed list. Of 51 voters who check COBirds, 57% said they “might chase a rare bird if they have time.”

At Chatfield SP, Lee photographed an immature Pomarine Jaeger and two Brant. He tried to capture a photo of a Red-naped Sapsucker sipping sap from its tree wells, but instead was fortunate to photograph a female Broad-tailed Hummingbird stealing sap from the well.

Observation photography of birds exemplifies a general love of nature. Examples included a gorgeous Green-winged Teal and feather detail of a female Mallard. Of 51 voters queried on how often they take a birding vacation, 27% do so 2–3 times/year. As an example of a short birding vacation, Lee photographed a Black Swift on a dark ledge at Box Canyon by using a two-second exposure with no flash. He lightened it using computer photo-processing software.

Other examples of observing nature were photos of a female Common Merganser with young, a Western Grebe in North Park with a chick on its back, Sandhill Crane pairs dancing, an American Avocet with two chicks, Broad-tailed Hummingbird nestlings, Black-chinned Hummingbird nestlings from a nest in his yard, and a “multi-legged Sandpiper.” Later photos revealed several chicks under the parent! Of 49 voters, passerines were the favorite bird group at 27%. Lee showed several great photos of American Dippers including shots of the nictitating membrane of the eye as well as the dipper’s igloo-shaped moss nests on cliff faces above streams.

The first **Science and Learning** poll asked how many of 50 voters participate in “citizen science” with a high of 28% saying they help with two or three projects. Many of Lee’s photos were a series of shots capturing bird behavior. Lee showed a Downy Woodpecker extracting a grub from a plant stem. He also managed to get a shot of the rusty “neck band” for which the Ring-necked Duck is named. A photo series of Tree Swallows repeatedly hitting the water showed they not

Continued on next page

Sira Barbet — New Species in Peru

On a remarkable expedition in 2008, a team of young explorers including three Cornell graduates discovered an undescribed bird in Peru. Now named Sira Barbet, the new species graces the cover of *The Auk* (July 2012), and receives its formal scientific description inside. Its scientific name, *Capito fitzpatricki*, honors the contributions of John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab, who did pioneering work in Peru (including discovering seven new species of his own) and also helped mentor the Cornell graduates on the expedition.



Photograph by Michael Harvey

Those Cornell graduates are Mike Harvey, Glenn Seeholzer, and Ben Winger; their coauthors on the *Auk* article include Peruvian colleague Daniel Cáceres and U.S. colleague Jason Weckstein. “Fitz’s contributions to Neotropical ornithology, and his enthusiasm for exploration, stoked our dream for the expedition,” said Winger. “He has inspired generations of young ornithologists in scientific discovery and conservation, and we are honored to name this species for him.”

The 2008 expedition was supported by Lab donors, a National Geographic Young Explorers grant, and donations to the Lab’s student World Series of Birding team. In addition to the discovery of the Sira Barbet, the expedition documented 670 species and brought back 490 sound recordings for the Cornell Lab’s Macaulay Library’s archives.

The three-week expedition ventured into remote highlands that had never been the subject of an ornithological study before. Read a full retelling of their adventure and see photos from the expedition in [Stretching the Canvas](#), from the Spring 2010 issue of *Living Bird* magazine.

So Sayeth the Speaker, continued from previous page

only were drinking, but actually going under the water and bathing on-the-wing. He photographed a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher feeding on an inchworm, American Avocets feeding on *Tubifex* worms pulled out of the mud, and a Pied-billed Grebe eating a small fish. A fascinating series showed a Hooded Merganser expertly “declawing” a crawfish by nipping off

its claws before swallowing it tail first! Photos of a Red-winged Blackbird actually grabbing the back of a Swainson’s Hawk in flight showed feathers raining down. An amazing series was a Three-toed Woodpecker juvenile being fed bark beetle grubs by a female. Patience rewarded Lee with photos of the grub inside the hole in the tree and then in the female’s bill feeding the juvenile. Lee’s advice was to get a camera, shoot lots of photos, share with others, and donate photos to educational causes as he does. He provided the DFO audience with many fine examples of the reasons to photograph birds.

Prior to Lee’s presentation, Joe Roller provided a fun photographic diary of *Rascal the Roadrunner* which he discovered on Dinosaur Ridge in January 2012. Amazingly, the Greater Roadrunner survived snow storms, fed on insects, and stayed into spring.

Kay Niyo

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

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Feb 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
March 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
May 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303-981-8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303-863-7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303-280-8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303-772-6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303-287-1644
Dec 12 Chuck Hundertmark

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21, Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532, veronicaholt43@comcast.net.

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt, New Email: veronicaholt43@comcast.net

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

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Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation. ;

- Contribution to 2013 research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Other Creatures Seen While Birding

Joey Kellner, Glenn Walbek, Norm Erthal
Monday October 22, 7.30pm

Learning about Colorado Birds

Monday November 26, 7:30pm



Denver Field Ornithologists

THE LARK BUNTING



DECEMBER 2012

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 48, Number 12

Birding in Australia

Bill Eden & Bill

Turner

Monday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.

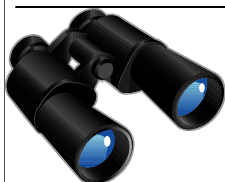
Australia has been isolated from other land masses for over 50 million years, resulting in one of the highest rates of bird endemism of any country. Bill Eden and Bill Turner retrace their birding trip to the renowned birding locations of O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge, Kakadu National Park, and the Atherton Tablelands of northeast Queensland, illustrated with Bill Eden's stunning photos.

Australia has been called the land of parrots with such colorful species as the king parrot (*photo on the right by Bill Eden*), rainbow and varied lorikeets, the crimson rosella, the red-tailed black cockatoo, and the restricted range hooded parrot.



Several species of bowerbirds and their bowers will be shown as well as the cassowary, many honeyeaters, the Victoria's riflebird (a bird of paradise), whipbirds, the iridescent superb fairy-wren, the black-necked stork (jabiru), Papuan frogmouth, azure kingfisher, white-breasted sea eagle and many more. Other wildlife seen on the trip included the platypus (one of only three species of egg-laying mammals), a variety of kangaroos and wallabies, and two species of crocodiles. Some photos of ancient Aboriginal rock art will also be included.

Continued on page 3



December Field Trips

Saturday, December 1

RMBO Annual Barrow's Goldeneye Count, Longmont Area Lakes

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark, 303-604-0531, 0800 meet the leader in the parking lot of the Jim Hamm Nature Area, Longmont. From the Denver area, take I-25 north to Exit 240. Drive west on Highway 119 (Ken Pratt Boulevard) to County Line Road. Head north on County Line Road and look for the nature area on the left just past 17th Avenue. We'll check Union Reservoir and McIntosh Lake for Barrow's Goldeneyes and other early winter waterfowl. Barrow's Goldeneyes were found on both lakes during last winter's Barrow's Goldeneye count. We'll check other area lakes as time allows. This will be primarily a driving trip. A long half day. Spotting scopes will be useful. Call or email the leader in advance.

Sunday, December 2

RMBO Annual Barrow's Goldeneye Count, South Platte River

Leader: Paul Slingsby [303-422-3728](tel:303-422-3728), 0800 meet the leader at the South Platte River trailhead at 88th Avenue. From

Continued on next page

December Field Trips, continued

I-76 take exit 10 and go west across the river to the first stop light (Riverdale Rd. / Colorado Blvd.). Turn left at the light, look for the group in the parking lot to your left. If you live near Wheat Ridge, call the leader for car-pool. Weather can cause cancellation so be sure to register with the leader.

We will count Barrow's Goldeneyes south of 88th avenue. Then we'll hike north along the river toward 104th avenue, an area with cottonwood forest and many pools. Count on about three miles walking on paved trail with excursions to view ponds. The river in this area is especially good for ducks. You might find it interesting to study duck sounds beforehand. Also, you'll have more fun if you study Barrow's and Common Goldeneye males, females and first year birds, as we may have the opportunity to discuss birds that we see. We may see also Gadwalls, Mallards, Scaups, Widgeons, Ring-necked Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Pintails and some surprises. This will be a long 1/2 day. Some of us may opt to retire to a warm restaurant for lunch. Spotting scopes will be useful but those who bring them will share. Note that the preceding day, Saturday, is also an RMBO / DFO Barrow's Goldeneye count trip.

Saturday, December 8 Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Mary Cay Burger, 303-771-3431. Meet at 0830. Come to the **EAST GATE** of Cherry Creek Park, which is a right hand turn off Parker Road, just south of I-225. From there, you will get further directions to the first stop for the group. Generally, group will bird from east to west, to take advantage of morning sun to your back. Leader knows Cherry Creek very well and will take us to locations where interesting birds have been occurring. Eagles will probably be on the reservoir. Must have state parks pass and "water" sticker to enter. Birding until noon or 1. Lunch optional.

Sunday, December 9 Boulder County Lakes

Leader: Chishun Kwong, 303-709-6097 or chishunkwong@yahoo.com. 0800, half day trip. Join us as we visit various bodies of water in Boulder County looking for waterfowls and any lingering land birds. Meet at Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks office parking lot (66 South Cherryvale Road, Boulder, between US 36 and S. Boulder Rd),



Christmas Bird Count Details on page 4

Donations for 2013 Grants Needed

As you renew your membership for 2013 please consider making a generous donation to the DFO Research and Education Fund. This year we are able to match all donations up to a total of \$1500 from a very generous gift given to DFO by Bob Righter.

Because of the loss of our Endowment Fund to a Ponzi scheme (see October Lark Bunting, pages 4-5), funds for grants will no longer be available from earnings on that fund. The DFO board is assessing whether an effort should be made to reestablish an endowment. In the meantime, the board voted to establish a Research and Education Fund that can be used for current and future grants.

In keeping with a new policy implemented by the board, all donations and other DFO funds are maintained in an FDIC insured account until they are used.

In 2012 we awarded four worthwhile grants to supporting a wildlife habitat garden, binoculars for middle school students, Black Swift research, and an educational workshop for land managers. Your generous donation when you renew your membership will allow DFO to continue supporting worthy avifauna research and education projects.

Meeting presentations, continued



Photo of Bald Eagle Family by Chuck Hundertmark

Learning about Colorado Birds

Monday November 26, 7:30pm

Since 1988, volunteers with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Bald Eagle Watch have been monitoring the recovery of the Bald Eagle breeding population in northeastern Colorado. The recovery began with a single nest at Barr Lake State Park. Bald Eagle Watch is one of several Citizen Science programs sponsored by the observatory.

More than 100 volunteers from around Colorado assist the biologists of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) with their challenge of monitoring Colorado birds through these programs. Bald Eagle Watch is the oldest of these programs. Bald Eagle Watch Coordinator Cindi Kelly will kick off the two part DFO program on November 26, with a presentation on the evolution of this program that monitors Bald Eagle nests in northeastern Colorado.

Volunteers now monitor between 20 and 30 nests of this iconic bird often dubbed the American Eagle. While Bald Eagle Watch is the oldest of RMBO's Citizen Science programs is Bald Eagle Watch, Colony Watch covers the largest area of the state. In the second part

of the November program, RMBO Special Monitoring Project Coordinator Jason Beason will introduce us to this project that monitors 15 species of water birds that nest in colonies. The species monitored include grebes, pelicans, cormorants, ibis, herons, egrets, night herons, gulls and terns. DFO President Chuck Hundertmark, who is also RMBO's Citizen Science Committee Chair, will moderate the program.

*Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door, although this does cause problems for our hosts. Meetings start **promptly** at 7.30pm, and are open to the public without charge.*

Welcome New Members (2013 memberships now due)

Susan Blansett, 1000 19th St, Golden, CO 80401, 303.475.2718

Francis Haas, 3333 E Florida Ave #102, Denver, CO 80210, 303.520.0831

Judith Henderson, 1200 Cherokee St #105, Denver, CO 80204, 720.932.7505

Ann Hered, 5401 S Park Terrace Ave #206D, Greenwood Village, CO 80111, 303.284.7908

Thank you Paula Hoffman, Peggy Roberts, Sue Clasen, Newell Grant for your donation to the Research & Education Grant Fund.

Special thanks to Lee & Linda Farrel who returned Lee's September speaker fee to add to the grants fund and to Tuesday Birders for their donation toward printing the Lark Bunting.

59th Denver Christmas Bird Count - Saturday, December 15, 2012



Count Leader/Compiler: Joey Kellner (303-978-1748), vireo1@comcast.net

Feeder Coordinator: TBD (contact the Count Compiler)

Compilation (and potluck) meeting: 5:00 pm, South Platte Park classroom, 3000 W. Carson Dr.

All DFO members are encouraged to participate in the annual Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored by the Denver Field Ornithologists and the National Audubon Society. To participate, call one of the Area Leaders listed below to assist in a particular area, or call the Count Compiler (contact info above) if you would like to help in an area that still needs additional observers. After a day in the field, all participants are invited to attend the compilation meeting to feast, warm up, chat with other birders, and find out how the count fared. It is a lot of fun. The compilation meeting will be at the Carson Nature Center (Santa Fe & Mineral Ave, between the Light Rail parking and the Platte River) at 5pm. **Feel free to bring a dish or desert to share!**

Fees: None! National Audubon Society has now eliminated ANY fees for participants! So, no excuses! Come have a great time and help count birds!

The 15-mile diameter "count circle" is subdivided into 24 "count areas" each with a leader. Area locations and names and phone numbers of Area Leaders are listed below. Participants should contact Area Leaders for meeting times and places on count day, Saturday, December 15.

Area Number and Location	Area Leader	Phone Number
1. Red Rocks Park	Bob Brown	303-791-6204
2. Lower Bear Creek	Mike Henwood	303 716-8551
2A. Bear Creek Lake Park	Mark Amershek	303-329-8646
3. Bow Mar/Marston	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
4A. Lower South Platte - East	Ed Holub	303-979-2194
4B. Lower South Platte - West	Bob Shade	303-975-2476
5. Highline Ditch	Nancy Crews	303-791-8276
6. Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-917-2596
7A. Middle South Platte - West	Randy Lentz	303-680-3381
7B. Middle South Platte - East	Urling Kingery	303-814-2723
8. Chatfield State Park	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9. Upper South Platte *	Jill Holden	303-972-6410
10. Lower Deer Creek	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000
11. Upper Deer Creek	Paul Slingsby	303-422-3728
12. Yegge Peak	Ann Bonnell	303-979-6211
13. Doublehead Mountain	Tim Davis	303-841-6163
14. North Turkey Creek	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035
15. Indian Hills	Sherman Wing	303-697-8840
16. Upper Bear Creek	Tom Parchman	303-274-7951
17. Ken Caryl Ranch	Tom Bush	303-904-4576
18. Garrison Gate	Steve Stachowiak	303-791-4974
19. Morrison/Willowbrook	Mark Chavez	720-448-5485
20. Willow Creek	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072
21. Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	Wayne Wathen	720-344-0158

* to participate in this area, you must contact the area leader no later than Tuesday, December 11th.

So Sayeth the Speaker...

Monday, October 22nd DFO members assembled in the Gates Planetarium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for the monthly meeting. The biggest surprise of the night was the presentation of the prestigious DFO Ptarmigan Award for meritorious service. This special honor was awarded to a surprised and pleased Joey Kellner for his many efforts over many years ranging from popular field trip leader to DFO president to being the current compiler of the annual Denver Christmas Count.

It was a sure bet that Joey would be in attendance on that Monday night since he was one of the evening's two presenters. Joined by Norm Erthal (sadly Glenn Walbek was unable to attend), the two presented a most informative program titled "Other Creatures Seen While Birding."

Joey led off with a discussion of some of the reptiles and amphibians (herps) an observant birder is likely to encounter while in the field in northeastern Colorado; that is if one is looking DOWN from time to time instead of always looking UP. The experts list 63 species of herps in the region east of the Divide and roughly north of a line from Castle Rock to Limon to Burlington.

We saw excellent photos of frogs, turtles, lizards, and snakes, and shared aspects of the natural history of each species that would assist birders in locating these animals which share their habitat with our feathered friends. Joey also pointed out that birders are more likely to make new discoveries about these non-feathered creatures than are our cold-blooded brethren (I'm not sure whether he meant the human herpetologists or the herps themselves) because we are out year round while they are typically out only in the warmer months of the year.

Joey identified short-tailed lizards, chorus frogs, and pinkish coachwhips, all of which are typically active from late spring to early fall, but can occasionally be encountered at other times. Joey recommended Dr. Geoffrey Hammerson's wonderful book *Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado: A Colorado Field Guide* (2nd edition, 1999) which is not only the best herpetofauna guide for Colorado, but is also one of the best guides for any state in the country.

Norm then took the microphone and worked through a dazzling array of damselflies, dragonflies, and butterflies. Colorado is blessed with as much diversity amongst our insects as it is among our birds and for the same reasons – Colorado's diverse "life zones".

The damselflies and dragonflies, in the insect order Odonata (the Odonates), are aggressive insect predators analogous to bobcats and mountain lions in the mammal world. Damselflies are typically smaller than dragonflies and when not flying, sit with wings closed over their abdomens (except for the group called the spreadwings). As with all the Odonates, they are cold blooded and are tied to the water in which they lay their eggs. Typically first three stages of life are lived out in streams, ponds, or lakes and only the adults leave the water to forage and mate. Dragonflies follow a similar life cycle. Both are found in a wide variety of sizes, colors, and habitats. For those who have become bored with the "simple" identification of birds, there are some brave souls who train their binoculars on damselflies and dragonflies instead, but Norm warns that this is not an activity for the faint of heart.

Likewise the butterflies, in the insect order Lepidoptera, are abundant and varied in Colorado's open spaces (approximately 220 species). Swallowtails, crescents, blues, coppers, hairstreaks, and metalmarks can all be encountered on birding trips. For those needing another quality field guide for your backpack, David Leatherman recommends the *Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America* by Eaton and Kaufman (2007) as an accurate and very usable guide to the 30 or so orders of insects. The American Naturalist Series offers another book of interest titled *Dragonflies & Damselflies of the Rocky Mountains* by Robert DuBois (2010).

Norm's final message about these fascinating little creatures is to use your small digital camera as often as you use your binoculars. Take photos of these insects and then while watching your next Broncos football game, get out your field guides and complete the identification of the insects spotted and photographed on your last birding outing.

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." John Muir – 1911

Submitted by Chris Blakeslee

“How The Sausage Is Made” - Or, What Your DFO Board Is Working On

DFO's core mission is to provide quality field trips, the *Lark Bunting*, excellent monthly programs, and support other activities such as the Rare Bird Alert, the Denver Christmas Bird Count, and research and education grants. Under Chuck Hundertmark's leadership as DFO president the DFO board has expanded its size, is meeting with greater frequency, and is working on a whole variety of topics to strengthen the organization in pursuit of its mission. The purpose of this report is to inform the DFO membership about the various issues the board is discussing and/or working on, and the goals it is setting. So far as we know there is no other organization in the North America that offers free, quality birding trips an average of three times per week, year round!

DFO Board Discussions, Actions, and Goals

1. In February, 2012, the board updated the DFO Bylaws.
2. The board is discussing the possibilities of enhancing and expanding the *Lark Bunting* and the DFO website, including the possibility of making the *Lark Bunting* totally electronic. HAVE YOU VISITED THE DFO WEBSITE (www.dfobirders.org) RECENTLY?
3. The board is discussing the creation of a Policy Manual to facilitate continuity in the functioning of DFO. This document will likely include job descriptions of officers, directors, the *Lark Bunting* editor, and committee chairs; orientation procedures for new board members; historic documents preservation; etc.
4. In response to the probable loss of the Endowment funds to the Bridge Premium Finance LLC Ponzi scheme (see the October *Lark Bunting*, pages 4-5) the board has:
 - ◇ a) Created a Fact Finding Committee (Bill Wuerthele, Chair) to look into how investment decisions were made and to make recommendations for decision making in the future.
 - b) Created a Stewardship Committee (Mary Geder, DFO Treasurer, Chair) to recommend comprehensive financial investment guidelines.
 - c) Decided to rebuild the grants program in response to strong support from the board and DFO membership. To this end the board has voted to establish the Research and Education Grants Fund and Chuck has asked Chris Blakeslee to chair a committee to administer the fund.
5. Field trips are at the heart of DFO's mission. The board has asked the question, “What makes a good field trip leader?” The board has created the position of Director of Field Trips who will oversee field trip scheduling, scientific data collection and analysis, use of eBird, new guidelines for field trip leaders, the possibility of field trip leader training, etc. These jobs have all been overseen by the DFO president in the past. The board is
6. currently seeking a volunteer to take on the role of Director of Field Trips.
7. The board is seeking legal advice on an updated and improved Trip Waiver form.
8. The board has updated the DFO Liability Insurance policy and has purchased a Directors & Officers Insurance policy.
9. The board has created the position of Director of Communication who would oversee publicity of DFO activities, the *Lark Bunting*, the DFO website, and expanded communications with the membership and the general public. These jobs have all been overseen by the DFO president in the past.
10. In the spring of 2012, Warren Finch retired as DFO's longtime historian – kudos to Warren! The board will consider whether to recruit a new DFO historian.
11. The board has worked closely with Kris Haglund, DMNS Archivist, to preserve the Colorado Bird Club's (est. 1935) and DFO's (est. 1964) historical documents in the Museum's Archives. Kris has digitized all of our *Lark Buntings* in searchable PDF files which we hope will be available on the DFO website in the future.
12. The board is looking into the possibility of electronic payments for membership dues or donations to DFO through PayPal or some other online payment service.
13. As of October, 2012, DFO's membership stands at 395; 302 members receive the *Lark Bunting* electronically and 93 receive it through the U.S. mail.

If you have questions about any of these issues, feel free to contact Chuck or any other officer or board member for more information (contact information on last page of the *Lark Bunting*).

Submitted by Chris Blakeslee

2012 DFO Ptarmigan Award Winner



BACKGROUND - for outstanding, loyal and meritorious service to the DFO and the advancement of bird study in Colorado.

HISTORY – for many years DFO has given this award to an individual, who is a member of DFO. Not given every year. The DFO Board of Directors receives nominations from the sub-committee chosen by the Board to select a person eligible for the Ptarmigan Award.

The 2012 Ptarmigan Award Winner....

Is an enthusiastic mentor for upcoming and seasoned birders including some who are now nationally recognized for their birding talents and contributions to ornithology.

This person has led many DFO field trips including many trips to various locations throughout Colorado, other states and some outside the US. He is a past

president of DFO and has previously been on the Colorado Field Ornithologists Rare Bird Record Committee.

The Ptarmigan Award winner assists with the Denver Audubon Society Master Birder Program and is responsible for many Colorado State Records such as Harris Hawk, Ancient and Marbled Murrelet and Curlew Sandpiper. This person has also participated in the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II. The recipient has been very involved with the DFO's Spring and Fall bird counts and is now in charge of the annual Denver Christmas Bird Count...Many birders have learned so much from this person not only about birds but from an enthusiastic knowledge of butterflies and herps.

The recipient has for years leads monthly bird walks at Chatfield State Park and has updated the bird list for Chatfield State Park & Waterton, Colorado in 2009. Also at Chatfield he organized 10 years of a fun and frivolous event called the BIG SIT and has registered this as ---"DFO Insaniacs".

This years selection is a husband and proud father of three daughters and his name is **JOEY KELLNER**.

Tina Jones and Lynn Willcockson

Cornell News

The 26th season of Project FeederWatch begins November 10, and participants are needed more than ever. By watching your feeders from November through April and submitting what you see, you're making it possible for scientists to keep track of changing bird populations across the continent. New or returning participants can sign up anytime. After unusual winter weather in some parts of the country last season, many participants found themselves asking, "Where are the birds?"—but the story might be different this year....To learn more about joining Project FeederWatch and to sign up, visit www.feederwatch.org or call the Cornell Lab toll-free at (866) 989-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Cornell Lab members), participants receive the FeederWatcher Handbook and Instructions with tips on how to successfully attract birds to your feeders, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds, and a calendar. Participants also receive *Winter Bird Highlights*, an annual summary of FeederWatch findings, as well as the Cornell Lab's quarterly newsletter, *Living Bird News*. (Project FeederWatch is a joint research and education project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. Image: American Tree Sparrow by Susan Szeszol, from our 2012 FeederWatch Photo Gallery.)

New Trip Leader Guidelines

Thanks to Christie Owens, revised and expanded guidelines for field trip leaders are now in the hands of Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO) web master Richard Holmes Anderson for posting on the web site www.dfobirders.org. By the time you read this, they should be available on the site. Both new and experienced trip leaders should review the new guidelines.

The new and expanded guidelines are divided into three sections covering pre-trip preparations, the trip itself, and post-trip reporting. For most DFO field trips, one of our volunteer schedulers contacts prospective trip leaders to invite them to lead a trip. A few trip leaders, however, contact the scheduler to let them know that they would like to lead a trip on a particular date. The new guidelines encourage more trip leaders to take this proactive approach. It makes putting the monthly schedules together much easier when some leaders volunteer ahead of time.

The new guidelines also suggest giving each trip a particular focus. This could be anything from a skill focus such as bird photography or song identification to a seasonal theme like winter gull identification or spring shorebird migration. The guidelines also suggest limiting the number of trip participants and identifying trip difficulty in the description of the trip. Other suggestions for writing the trip description are also presented.

Instructions for the trip itself include recommendations for the briefing the leaders give at the beginning of the trip. The leader should be sure to have each participant sign the trip waiver. This part of the trip briefing can be facilitated if the leader has participants register before the trip. As participants call or email the leader before the trip, the leader can enter their names on the waiver form so that a full list of participants is ready at the beginning of the trip. During the trip itself, leaders are urged to keep track of numbers of birds seen as well as species. DFO's field trips provide a valuable long-term record of many Front Range bird sightings. Those records are much more valuable for tracking trends when numbers are reported.

When the trip is finished, leaders enter the trip report in eBird. The new leader guidelines include step by step instructions for entering the report in eBird. The eBird web site, maintained by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, provides a large database accessible to researchers. When leaders enter their data in eBird, they can have the report sent directly to Veronica Holt so that she can compile the monthly trip summaries. They can also share the trip list with any of the participants who provide their email addresses. The recently revised waiver form now has an area for participants to enter their email address as well as emergency contact.

Chuck Hundertmark

More News from Cornell...

Imagine you walk into the neighborhood coffee house for your morning cup of joe, and on the counter is a tip jar with a sign reading, "\$ for wintering warblers" with a photo of a Chestnut-sided Warbler in a tropical forest. You'd drop your change in, right? Any proud bird watcher would do their part for the wellbeing of the sprightly warblers that delight us so much come spring.

Where to buy Bird Friendly Coffee

Grab a supply of Bird Friendly coffee with the help of these Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center pages:

[Find a store near you](#)

[See a map of stores that carry Bird Friendly coffee](#)

[Order Bird Friendly coffee online](#)

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Jan 12 Mary Geder 303.981.8823
Feb 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
March 12 Chris Owens 303.772.6048
April **Scheduler needed**
May 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303.981.8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303.863.7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303.280.8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303.772.6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
Dec 12 Chuck Hundertmark 303.604.0531

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt43@comcast.net.

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt: veronicaholt43@comcast.net

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge. **Please note that the October 22 meeting will be held in the Planetarium.**

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, news from the Board, and various birding articles and photos. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists](#) Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2013 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation. ;

- Contribution to research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Learning about Colorado Birds

Monday November 26, 7:30pm

Birding in Australia

Bill Eden and Bill Turner

Monday, January 28

Denver Field Ornithologists

2013 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If you would prefer to have the Lark Bunting emailed to you, please include your email address. You can pay for more than one year, just be sure to make a note of that with your payment check.

One Year Family Membership (**Electronic Lark Bunting**) **\$20.00**

One Year Family Membership (**First Class Mail Lark Bunting is \$10 more**) **\$30.00**

Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger) **\$5**

Contribution to research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____

If you have any questions please call 303-694-4670

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting email address _____

Please make sure that your email address is legible.

Please make check payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to:
Mary Burger, 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742